RUGELEY TIMES

COLTON VILLAGE In the NEWS

Press Cuttings Volume II

1960 onwards

NO 2.

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elopments that are taking place near Colton ng an adverse effect on the old-world llage, claim many of the inhabitants. xpressed publicly last week at a meeting cil which was thrown open to the public.

controversy in the plans Rev. A. S. Towlson, for t provement and church pro- ion of a new on the field and the road. ash trees and have been up- dozer has been lling operations. also been used en land known the ownership of d to be in doubt. dcastle, chairman of Council, said he as interpreting the meeting when he ppointment that the present to reply to ies raised. It seemed espon- done. pology, holi- meeting

questioned why matters should have advanced so far as removing trees and hedgerows and making an offer to the County Council to dedicate land between the improvement line and the old boundary as it was understood that the County Council would be considering a road widening scheme on this frontage during the next year. Other council members said that when this "first stage" was considered at their meeting they had not visualised operations on the scale they were now witnessing.

Mr. A. N. Felton explained that the "first stage" of the development consisted of bulldozing operations for levelling purposes and the building of a retaining wall at a cost of £250. This would leave a balance of only about £50 in the church appeal fund.

After a long discussion the clerk, Mr. S. J. Timmins, was instructed on five points:

To acquaint the County Roads and Bridges Department of the disapproval of the meeting at the manner in which the new burial ground was being developed, including the removal of hedgerows and trees, and regretting the apparent move to effect a highway improvement on this frontage which might have an adverse effect on the old-world appearance of this part of the village.

To draw the attention of the County Roads and Bridges Department to the danger emanating from mud and sludge, which appeared to be encroaching on the highway on this frontage after the bulldozing operations, and urging the department to take steps to ensure the cleaning of the carriageway at this point.

To acquaint the secretary of the Parochial Church Council and the secretary of Lichfield Diocesan Board of Finance respecting these two matters and to bring to their notice the impression gained at the meeting that members of the Church Council did not appear to be fully conversant with the scheme in the light of operations so far effected To ask that pressure be brought to bear to defer any more work in order to afford an opportunity for the Church Council to review the situation in the light of what has been done nad to have an understanding with the rector over the extent of any further operations.

To ask the Parochial Church Council to give consideration to the planting of trees in replacement of those removed.

To apply to the County Planning Department for a Trees Preservation Order to protect any remaining trees in or near the churchyards.

Although not forming part of the resolution, the Parish Council meeting also appeared to disfavour the making of a roadway, at a later stage, from a point near Boughey Hall Lane to the church, across the land in question, on the grounds of conservation of land and economy of funds, it being considered unnecessary and undesirable.

Mrs. M. S. Toy said she hoped that the Parochial Church Council would do all that they could to rectify matters, so far as operations already carried out would allow.

Mr. Hardcastle told the "Times" that he thought it was a disaster for the village. It was a disgusting situation that the entrance to the village should be destroyed, trees removed and a certain area, the ownership of which the Parish Council were determined to prove, should have had it surface destroyed.

"I would not be a party to allow public funds to be used to reinstate it, pending proof of ownership. The responsibility lies with the Parochial Church Council," he said. The Church Council were not fully conversant with the operation as it appeared to be developing.

In a statement to the "Times," Mr. J. A. Best, who is secretary of the Parochial Church Council, said: "Speaking for myself and the churchwardens, I must say that we feel very perturbed at the harm that must inevitably be done to the church in Colton as a result of such strongly expressed public feeling.

"We are most anxious that a meeting of the P.C.C. should be held in order that the matter may be clarified before further work is carried out."

Mr. Best said a letter had been sent to await the rector's return, asking for such a meeting. He thought that some of the P.C.C. members felt that the rector had gone much further than authorised. They had agreed to let him carry on with "Phase 1" of the improvement scheme up to a certain sum of money. "It now appears that he had considerably exceeded the permission granted by the P.C.C.," he said.

Mr. J. F. Peet told the "Times" that he felt "very upset about the changes. If this is a sample of the rector's intended improvements to the village, I think it would be a good idea if he took a quick look round and decided, along with the majority of the people, that the 'plan' had misfired," he said.

Mr. J. H. Toy, chairman of the Village Produce Guild, commented: "We have been here for 15 years and have always felt that this was the prettiest end of the village and we are only too sorry to see it despoiled like this. I hope the rector will replant trees for those he has destroyed.

"I also hope he will reinstate the open ground near the brook bridge, which was tidied up by the Produce Guild and volunteers, and thus helped the village to win the Best Kept Village competition."

Mr. Timmins, clerk to the Parish Council, told the "Times" that no further work had been carried out on the site during the absence of the rector.

When seen by the "Times" on his return from holiday on Thursday evening, the Rector said: "I have no comment to make at present, as I have not had an opportunity to consider the facts."

The November meeting of the Colton branch of the Mothers' Union was held in the Reading on Tuesday, Mrs. J. L. g member) intrordy, wife of the ter, who conducted and gave an inon "The Mothers' " dcastle thanked Mrs. otchell had a stall he sold oddments ing from the garden party. eds will help the church ccount. 9/11/60

COLTON
Vic. 22/9/60
Institute.—At the Sepneeting of the Colton Institute held in the Read- Mrs. I. Preston (assisted N. Jones) presided. Mrs. comed as a new tters included egarding the ng at Abbots rd. Mrs Jones k and his as- ress and Star" how, the first Fast," giving of the thought nvolved before wspapers. Mrs. anks to Mr. Simurn invited mem- at the "Express mber. This was h pleasure. The Humorous Snap- Mrs. Jones. Miss n charge of the

COLTON
Films at service.—The evening service at St. Mary's Church on Sund was of a rather unce e, when the

24/9/60. Times
Colton W.I. see newspaper film

The September meeting of Colton W.I. was held in the Reading Room. Mrs. I. Preston presiding, assisted by Mrs. N. Jones. A new

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Mothers' Union Meeting

The September meeting of Colton Mothers' Union was held in the Reading Room on Tuesday last week, when Mrs. J. L. Taylor (enrolling member) welcomed the Rev. H. Perrins, rector of Armitage, also extending good wishes from Colton branch on his recent marriage.

Mr. Perrins conducted a short service and gave an interesting address, the hymns "Fill Thou my life" and "Oh, Holy Ghost, Thy people bless" being sung. Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft proposed the vote of thanks on members' behalf.

The following day 15 members from Colton travelled with Abbots Bromley and Blithfield by coach to the M.U. rally and service at Tamworth, some joining in the procession from the Castle grounds to the church with clergy and M.U. banners, Mrs. J. L. Taylor being the Colton banner bearer.

COLTON

Whist Drive.—A Christmas Fare whist drive took place in the Reading Room on the 9th inst., organised by the Women's Institute to benefit their funds. Mr. Fred Norman was the M.C. and the prizes were presented by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft. Premier prize, a goose, was won by Mr. T. Jones, other winners being Miss D. M. Jones, Mr. G. E. D. Atkin (sen.), Mrs. Williams, Mr. S. Hall, Mrs. Bloor, Mr. Percy Westhorpe, Mrs. Ivy Preston; miniatures, Mrs. E. H. Tabernor, Mr. T. Jones; lowest scores, Mrs. L. Jackson and Mr. J. Bloor; travelling prizes, Mrs. Ravenscroft and Mrs. Preston.

The prizes in the competition were won by Mrs. A. Meddings (iced cake), Mrs. E. M. Sargeant (dressed doll) and Roger Bannister (chocolates). Helping with the refreshments were Miss Ellen Rotchell, Mrs. C. M. Amyes, Mrs. M. L. Waters, Mrs. E. Atkin, Miss Judith Preston and Miss Ruth Ravenscroft. Mrs. I. Preston (W.I. president) thanked all who had helped in any way with the effort, and also those who had braved the weather to attend that evening.

Needed consent of county authority

THREE instances of repair work having been carried out by Colton Parish Council to a wicket and wicket way, which were not normally the responsibility of a local authority, have been referred to in a letter from the County Council to the Parish council.

The Council were told at their meeting, held in the Reading Room, that the County Council asked in what circumstances the repairs were carried out and whether the Parish Council had previously done similar repairs and replacements. They drew attention to the agreement between the Roads and Bridges Department and the Parish Council, for work of a minor nature to public footpaths.

The clerk, Mr. S. J. Timmins, reported that after he had given the reasons for the repairs he received a second letter saying that the grant, under the scheme, of £12 10s. for the year 1959/60 was being made, but asking that the Parish Council would not in future incur expenditiure on work which was not normally the responsibility of the local authority, without the consent of the County Council.

COLTON STORM OVER RECTOR'S ACTIONS

"We have been hoodwinked" Parish meeting is told

THE controversy surrounding the Rector of Colton's extensions to Colton Church Burial Ground, reached a critical phase at a meeting of the Parish Council, when a demand that the Rector be removed was made, following some heated criticism of the vicar's actions. One councillor said that the Rector "had not desired to work with the villagers, the Parish Council, or the Parochial Church Council, and in fact has hoodwinked them." Following the discussions, it was decided that a sub-committee of the Parish Council, formed nearly two years ago to work on the extension plans with the Rector, the Rev. S. Towlson, should demand to meet him, with the Parish Council as onlookers.

At the meeting, in the later stages which the public were admitted, those who expressed opinions were against the actions of the Rector, Parochial Church members, who are also Parish Council members, said he did not inform them of the exact nature of his plans. They said that by "bulldozing down trees that have beautified the village for years, the Rector had destroyed Colton's old world charm."

The meeting began with a surprise when the Clerk Mr. S. J. Timmins read out the Rector's letter of resignation from the Parish Council.

RESIGNATION

The letter stated: "I feel that I can no longer associate myself with the Parish Council."

Mr. Timmins also read other letters, replies from committees to which he had written, and one from a villager, Mr. Jeff Peet, who offered to give up to a dozen hard wood trees to replace those knocked down. Mr Peet said that the action smacked of vandalism". Mr. Peet's offer was accepted.

Mr. Peet asked : "Do you think it would be worth while asking for the Rector to be removed ? He has not desired to work with the village, the Parish Council or the P.C.C. and in fact has hoodwinked them."

A statement from the Rector was read, which stated "My reason for not attending the meeting of Colton Parish Council on October 31 is that as Rector of Colton and also rector of the neighbouring Parish of Blithfield. I consider there are other matters which must have priority at the present time.

"As a private individual, I have come to the conclusion that Colton would be better off without a parish council at least for a trial period of five years.

In making this seemingly undemocratic suggestion I in no way intend to belittle the efforts of others of other members of the Parish Council as at present constituted or in matters of general welfare for the village community. In point of fact there appears to be a BOGEY—for now no better name — which is likely to rear its head in Colton from time to time, whenever progressive action is proposed.

GOOD AIRING

I believe the bogey was allowed a good airing some years ago, before I came to Colton myself, at a time when half a dozen or so street lamps were proposed: it would have reared up again at the time of the reorganisation plan for the Church Houses and Headmaster's house, which had not been 'bonked" on the head and there are those who are of the opinion the bogey is ram-shackle today.

For those not well versed in the Education of Local Government I would point out that during the period of the experiment of the three years without a duly elected Parish Council, which I advocate, the inter-

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ests of the Parishioners of Colton would be well cared for in the capable hands of the County and R. D. Councils whilst those who have given of their time to these matters will realise that to a large measure, the function of a Parish Council is, at best, advisory rather than active.

"But since the abolition of the Parish Council might leave an aching void in parish life, it might be considered necessary, for a concurrent three year period, to establish a Parish debating society, where those who like to hear themselves talk, and argue for the sake of argument, could give vent to their feelings, without bringing unnecessary hardship on others.

"Otherwise it might well be that children of the village school and others, are condemned to the use of earth closets for ever; residents in High Street will be continually bothered by burst pipes and somebody will have to be concerned with an all round issue of webbed feet, for at least one public highway might well be permanently flooded.

"And to those who may have the misguided conception of what a "tidy village campaign" really entails, I would point out that it does not consist in small groups of people feverishly bashing down nettles some few days before the "judges" are expected: it is rather to be evidenced in such voluntary schemes whereby lawns were laid at the Almshouses and on the south side of the church during last summer.

"One further point : Lest it should be thought that I in anyway fear opposition let it be known that I am at all times ready to hear and to consider the opinions of others, if they are reasonable, constructive and progressive; or indeed to fall in with suggestions of others which will promote the glory of God, the progress of the Church or the benefit of the community at large. There are many who consider that the present work of the Churchyard extension will do just that when completed.

PRIDE OF PLACE

"Indeed Colton Churchyard might perhaps take some pride of place in the diocese, win some vital points in a worthwhile competition, and be a worthy entrance to a village from which, I trust, the bogey will have been expelled. And if those who agree with me in principle, though perhaps not in every detail, will give some tangible expression of their gratitude for things already done, there will be no financial difficulty for the present or future progressive schemes necessary for the Parish of Colton.

"A copy of this statement is being made to the Press, the Parish Council of Colton, and a further copy is being sent to the Lord Bishop of Lichfield for his information."

The Council chairman, described Mr. Towlson's statement as an "amazing epistle". The "bogey" he said, "exists only in the mind of a frightened child, who utters a scream when he discovers it there".

If the Rector did not fear opposition, why, continued the chairman, did he run away from the responsibility of being a Councillor. The reason the council was involved, he said was that the Rector had gone beyond the P.C.C. and complaints had been made.

Councillor A. N. Felton, also a P.C.C. member, felt the Rector should have attended or called meetings about the matter.

Shortly after Mr. Hardcastle had remarked that the Rector had treated all and sundry with contempt, the meeting was thrown open to the public.

Councillor B. Bettson also a PCC member said he knew nothing of the details of the scheme until he saw the plans and then refused to be associated with the matter.

Councillor L. Mellor made the proposition that the sub-committee should demand a meeting.

COLTON

CAROLS AND PLAY.—Many parents and friends attended St. Mary's Church, Colton, on Friday afternoon last week, when pupils of Colton St. Mary's School held a carol service and presented a Nativity play. The organist was Mrs. D. Shaw and prayers were offered by Mr. D. E. Waters and the Rector. The play, "How far is it to Bethelem?" was well acted by the infant class under the leadership of their teacher, Mrs. M. S. Toy. The announce was Elizabeth Cooper and readers were Ian Cooper, Patricia Shipley, Helen Myatt, Melvyn Collins, Shirley Tittensor, Gwendoline N. Ravenscroft, Barry Peake and the Rector. Carols were played on recorders by Dianne Grimley, Pamela Jones, Kathleen Norman and

COLTON CAROL SERVICE

On the fourth Sunday in Advent a carol service was held in St. Mary's Church, Colton

Council will try to persuade, not remove, the 'bulldozer parson'

Express & Star 1/11/60

A VILLAGER last night asked Colton Parish Council if they would consider asking for the removal of the rector, the Rev. Stanley Towlson, who recently created a storm of criticism over a partly-developed burial ground scheme near the Rugeley entrance to the village.

Chairman of the council, Mr. F. Hardcastle, replied that before ...rious action ...onvince Mr. ...people who ...heme were ...as raised ...thrown ...er, Mr. ...the ...rk. ...ey" ...ery ...the ...ncil ...un- ...sed ...the ...ned ...ous ...but ...ad ...but ...uss ...the ...rd- ...eti- ...rm. ...the ...ard ...em- ...e is ...tor ...of ...ers. ...om- ...an ...inty ...ping ...een ...up- ...by ...ible ...the ...ited ...the ...aid, ...on- ...n. ...rth-

while asking for the vicar to be removed?" asked Mr. J. Peet. "He is only a passing figure. He does not own the village, he does not own the church. He has not desired to work with the village, the parish council or the parochial church council and, in fact, has bamboozled them."

Vice-chairman of the council, Mr. A. N. Felton, said some people in the village were all for the rector, but the rector would not work with them.

It was agreed to ask the parochial church council's sub-committee to demand a meeting with the rector to discuss the burial ground scheme.

EXTENSIONS TO COLTON CHURCHYARD

Times 24/9/60

CRITICISMS levelled by Colton Parish Council at the methods employed in carrying out certain development work near the village church are this week replied to in letters written by other villagers to the "Rugeley Times", which last week published a report quoting the views of members of the council and others opposed to the nature of the work so far carried out under the scheme.

Mr. F. W. Cooper, St. Mary's Parish Clerk and a member of the Parochial Church Council, writes:

In view of the adverse publicity given about the work begun on the new extensions to Colton churchyard the facts are as follows:

In view of the filling up of the present Cemetery, the Church Council acquired the field between the school and the church shortly after the death of Mrs. Oldham, late of Bellamore Lodge, in July, 1956.

As it was necessary to obtain permission of the County Planning Authority to use this field for burial purposes, the Rector had this field surveyed as to its levels by the architect. Owing to the waterlogged condition of the ground it was known that the lower part would be unusable for graves.

The Parish Council had approached the County Council last year about taking out the dangerous bend between the school and Brook Bridge. One of the conditions for planning permission was the setting back of the roadside 15 to 18 feet.

It was obvious that this surplus soil could be moved to fill up as much as possible of the lower part to a height (3ft. to 3ft. 6in.) above road level, to allow grave-digging in as large an area as possible. A suitable retaining wall is necessary to hold this up.

These plans were thoroughly known and the reasons explained by the Rector to myself and the other male members of the Church Council who had been appointed as a sub-committee by that body soon after we acquired the land.

The plans were also put before the Parish Council although that body is not directly concerned.

Owing to the urgent necessity to find burial accommodation, at the last Church Council meeting the Rector asked for and received authority to bulldoze the land and build the retaining wall.

As to its cost. The laying out of the new burial ground, as it was then called, was one of the objects of the £2,500 Five Years Appeal when it was first launched less than three years ago.

As to the fuss about the trees unsafe to walk under about five years ago.

The oak nearest the school was stunted through being struck by lightning more than 50 years ago.

Only one ash tree had any pretensions to being timber, and this one particularly was the danger by making the road so narrow and making it impossible to see oncoming traffic between the Bridge and the village.

Where does the Lichfield Diocesan Board of Finance come into the matter?

Any who are concerned about (1) Finding a place to bury our dead in the parish; (2) Removing danger from this stretch of road; (3) Seeing a decent and fitting approach both to the church and to the village instead of the dilapidated fence and scraggy hedge should give the rector all the support they can for his foresight and willingness to take off his own jacket.

Brave venture

Mr. W. A. Norman, a member of the Colton P.C.C. writes:

In three years the Rev. A. S. Towlson has done more for Colton village and church than has ever been done before. The trouble is that he is moving a bit too fast for some of the people.

Regarding the comments in last week's "Times," if it had not been for the very brave venture of the barbecue and ball, there would not have been any money to start the work on a new graveyard, the old one being almost full.

The sum of £250 was unanimously agreed on by the Parochial Church Council for "Phase 1" and the barbecue and ball raised £225.

You can now see the church; three years ago one could come through the village and not notice it at all. Now these people want to plant more trees to hide it again in future years.

I have never before heard the old council grit dump called a "Green!"

The brook still floods and the

COLTON

CAROL SERVICE.—... the carol service held ... Mary's Church, Colton. Lessons were read by Mr. J. Tittensor, Mrs. J. L. Taylor, Mr. D. E. Waters, Mr. Tom Preston, Mrs. Martin and the Rector. Mrs. G. E. Finnemore was the organist.

OPEN DAY.—An open day at St. Mary's Church School was attended by many parents and friends, who were welcomed into the gaily decorated classrooms. Also present were the Rector (the Rev. A. S. Towlson), Mr Fred Hardcastle (Chairman of the Parish Council) and Mrs. Hardcastle. Mr. B Bettson (churchwarden) and Mrs. Bettson. Mrs. M. S. Toy's infant class again presented their Nativity play "How far is it to Bethlehem?" in which those taking part were Doreen Atkin, Delia Knight, Audrey Stretton, Trudy Grimley, Glynnis Jones, Teresa Ritchie, Lynn Peake, Elaine Leeke, Christine Bennett, Michael Preston, John Norman, Maxwell Cooper, Aldo Monticoli, Judy Evans, Rosemary Slater, and Enid Fowell. The infants gave a dancing display and the older children sang songs. Three carols were played on recorders by Mr. D. E. Waters, Dianne Grimley, Pamela Jones and Gwendoline Ravenscroft. The programme ended with a short service.

SCHOOL PARTY. — The pupils of St. Mary's Church School had their Christmas party on the last day at school. Children who will be starting school in the next few months were invited, and presents of books were handed out by Father Christmas.

YOUTH CLUB. — Colton Youth Club's party held in the School, was organised by their leader, Mr. D. E. Waters. Various games were played, including musical parcel, won by Clifford Preston, and the evening ended with dancing. A collection organised by Mr. Waters, with the help of several club members, raised over £5 for a Christmas present for the blind.

COLTON

5/12/60

Produce Guild.—At the December meeting of the Village Produce Guild held in the Reading Room very little business was done, it being more of an evening for entertainment. The chairman, Mr. J. H. Toy, presided. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, and an invitation from the Colwish and District Guild was read out, and was accepted with much pleasure, for a social evening on January 3rd, Colwich having suggested a quiz as part of the evening's entertainment, a team of two ladies and two gents was elected who are Mr. J. F. Peet, Mr T. Preston, Mrs. D. Timmis and Miss Mary Preston.

The chairman congratulated the team who won at Abbots Bromley.

The next item on the agenda was a talk on Cannock Chase. Mr. Best also answered questions.

Another member, Mr. J. Poynton, gave an interesting and amusing tape recording of an event in guild life. Mr. S. J. Timmins gave a film show of films taken by himself and Mr. Best, including in the programme, the laying of lawns at Oldham's Cottages by Produce Guild members, and the presentation of the seat to the Cottages, followed by the tidy-up work in the village again by members for the best kept village competition.

The film taken during the judging in the best kept garden competition was shown and ending with the Guild and Women's Institute show in August.

Mr. Roy Bridgens proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Poynton, Mr. Best and Mr. Timmins for a most enjoyable programme, and Mr. R. K. Mowforth of Rodbaston Farm Institute, thanked the Guild for inviting himself and his wife.

The chairman of the parish council, Mr. Fred Hartcastle, and Mrs. Hardcastle were present, and apologies were received from Alderman and Mrs. A. N. Hillier, and Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Farrer.

The competition for 3 parsnips was judged by Mr. Mowforth, who awarded the prize (a pot plant) to Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft. Tea hostesses were Mrs. M. S. Toy, Mrs. D. Timmins and Mrs. M. E. Hibbs. Members were informed that seed catalogues are now available, and orders, with cash, must be in by the middle of January.

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very well acted by the infant class under the leadership of their teacher Mrs. M. S. Toy.

The announcer was Elizabeth Cooper, readers were Ian Cooper, Patricia Shipley, Helen Myatt, Mal...

14/12/60 Colton

SHORTAGE OF GRAVES, IMMEDIATE PROBLEM

ADVERTISER 1/12/60

Colton Church Council gives support to rector's scheme for burial ground

THE tremendous interest shown in [illegible] for a new burial ground at Colton, was illustrated recently when villagers packed into the North Room of the village school for a meeting of St. Mary's Church Council.

Chairman of the meeting, Rector of Colton, Rev. A. S. Towlson, said at the outset that it was a meeting in the ordinary way and not the result of any pressure. He added that only members of the council had a right to participate in business of the meeting, and they were there to transact ordinary business and not to argue about the new burial ground.

It was his job he said, to do the work of the Church. In this connection, his predecessors in office had preferred conventional methods which might have been a safer means of conducting business as compared with his own perhaps unorthodox approach to various problems.

He hoped, however, that while it might carry an element of risk, he might achieve his objective of doing what seemed to be best in the interests of the Church and the people.

"A watered-down Christianity is not good enough. We need new blood. We need to be vigorous and enthusiastic if we are to march forward in the spirit of God," he stressed.

REV. A. S. TOWLSON

" UNCONSTITUTIONAL "

In the course of discussion on the new burial ground, Mr B. Bettson (Rector's Warden) said that the reason why he withdrew his support was that after the sub-committee appointed by the church council to deal with the scheme had met to select the site, it had never met again.

"Was that correct procedure?" asked Mr Bettson "Certainly not in my opinion. Everything should not be decided by one man. It is both unconstitutional and undemocratic."

He went on to ask why certain hedges and trees had been grubbed up without permission of the sub-committee, and pointed out that proposals for a new roadway from opposite Boughey Hall Lane to the east side of the church was also a matter for settlement by the appointed authority.

Mr F W. Cooper (church clerk and verger) said that in conjunction with the appointed architect and surveyor, the Rector produced a scheme of lay-out which he showed to each member of the sub-committee with the possible exception of one member—possibly two.

Mr Cooper said there appeared to be no objections to this procedure from the members who were approached, and who were probably ready to accept this method of dealing with the matter rather than have too much of their time taken up in going into the "niceties" of the scheme. At any rate, no one seemed to raise any dissension at the time.

Referring to a complaint by Mrs [illegible] Jones (Lea Hall Farm, Admaston) as to conditions at present existing in the vicinity of the prospective burial site, Mr Cooper said it was almost impossible to avoid some mess in operations, especially in view of the recent prolonged spell of wet weather.

Similar conditions applied in other parts of the village where excavations and levelling work was being undertaken, and he asked people to be tolerant till this was completed.

TWO COURSES

Replying to the "debate", Mr [illegible]

cerning the removal of ash trees, Mr Towson claimed he was a "great lover of trees," and said he was sorry to see these go. Their removal however, could not have been satisfactorily avoided.

To have left them standing, and to have expected the contractors to bulldoze around their roots, was "too much of a good thing" The timber had been sold for £15 which had gone back into the funds

In reply to Mr J. A. Best (secretary of the church council) who had inquired whether the Rector had, in fact, agreed to make dedication of the land between the existing road boundary and improvement line to the County Council with a view to a road-widening scheme, Mr Towlson said he had informed the County Council he would be prepared to dedicate the strip of land subject to approval.

In view of the unfavourable attitude demonstrated at recent Parish Council meetings in which many other parishioners participated, it now seemed doubtful if anything would come of this.

The County Council, he added, had seemed interested in the possibility of an improvement at this point, although they had made it clear that there was little prospect, having regard to prior commitments in the County, of any general scheme of road-widening at Colton in the near future

NEED FOR SANCTION

He had hoped that in consideration for the suggested dedication to the County Council, they would have undertaken to build the prospective retaining wall as compensation

At this point, Mr M. B. Exham (Registrar and Legal Secretary of Lichfield Diocese), who attended the meeting in an advisory capacity, pointed out that any proposal for the disposal of land would have required the sanction of the diocesan authorities

Mr Towlson then went on to explode some wild estimates which have been circulating in the village with regard to the cost of work already carried out. He said that the barbecue, held in early June at the Rectory, had realised a sum of £225 6s 9d. He regarded this effort as the contribution of himself and Mrs Towlson to the Church Restoration Appeal Fund which had a balance left of £ [illegible]00.

The church council had sanctioned £250 of this to meet the cost of " Stage One" of the new burial ground development He went on to give information in reply to an inquiry by Mrs H. M. Felton, that the cost [illegible]

ousness of holding up operations on the new burial ground, and pointed out to the fact that at the present average of burials in the parish per year, the unused burial ground in the existing churchyard would soon be full.

Mr Bettson said that while he appreciated the necessity to avoid undue delay, he was unable to accept that this warranted a " by-passing" of the sub-committee. He found himself at cross-purposes with the Rector over this.

Mr B. Maurice Williscroft (People's Warden) said he would like to remind the company that the burial ground scheme was approved by the church council in a general sort of way. He was not referring to the part which the appointed sub-committee would, in the ordinary way, have subsequently played in the matter.

BEST POLICY

He agreed with some of the criticisms which had been put forward, but after what he had heard, he felt convinced that the best policy now would be to allow the scheme to stand in its present form so that "Stage One" of the development could be finished at the earliest possible date.

On the grounds of the urgency of the situation, the church council decided that the matter should be settled on these lines.

Replying to a request for the condition of the existing church drive to made more tenable for church-goers, Mr Towlson said he was prepared to have this done without cost to church funds. He did not imply that he would find the money out of his own pocket. It would probably be raised as a result of some effort. The offer was accepted.

Earlier, the church council had heard the Rector say that since the inception of church councils in 1921, there had never been an election in Colton to appoint a church council At meetings, they had always appeared content to elect "en bloc."

He felt that this was wrong, and it would be a change for the good if an election could be held to fill the seats on the council next year. Feeling they should welcome "new blood," he suggested a circular should be sent to the 250 or more people on the church electoral roll. Mr Exham .. revealed that voting forms could be obtained.

The meeting unanimously agreed that there was no obectjion to an election being held—if desired—in 1961.

COLWICH GUILD GROWING

TIMES 16/12/60

COLWICH and District Produce Guild's membership increases at every meeting On Tuesday, Mr. W. G. Torrance gave a talk on apples, commencing with the origin and history of apples in England His talk embraced both the natural varieties of bygone days and the present-day methods of raising and propagating. He also told stories of some famous apples and gave advice on methods of storing

A vote of thanks to Mr. Torrance was proposed by Mr. Stockton. This was the first meeting of the Guild on the new evening — the first Tuesday of each month.

Mr. J. Lewis (chairman) announced that Colton Guild had accepted their invitation to attend a social evening on January 3 in place of the usual meeting.

Colton had also agreed to take part in a gardening quiz. Mrs. M. Castellan, Mrs. Hood, Mr. Bannister and Mr. S. Gibbs expressed their willingness to form the Colwich team.

Members were reminded that there would also be a bring-and-buy stall and that each member could invite a friend, provided the officials were informed by December 28, the date of the committee meeting.

It was suggested that spring and summer meeting nights should be spent in visiting gardens instead of holding indoor meetings. Members promised prizes for the Guild whist drive on December 20.

Death of Mr. Benjamin Williscroft

TIMES 2/11/61

Mr. Benjamin Williscroft, of Rose Villa, Colton, died on Friday aged 72 years. Mr. Williscroft was a retired undertaker and wheelright who had carried on bushess in Market Street, Rugeley, and Colton.

He leaves a widow, two sons and a daughter.

As most of the repair work he carried out was on farms and farm implements, he was well known in farming circles. His two sons carried on the business when he retired seven years ago. Mr. Williscroft served in France in the first World War.

The funeral took place on Wednesday at St. Mary's Church, Colton, the service being conducted by the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson.

The mourners were Mrs. Williscroft (widow), Mr. and Mrs. G. Williscroft (son and daughter-in-law); Mr. L. Williscroft (brother); Mr. and Mrs. G. Williscroft (son and daughter-in-law); Mr. and Mrs. J. Chinnock (son-in-law and [illegible]

I cannot express views on Colton controversy—Bishop

LETTER from the Bishop of Lichfield, Dr. A. S. Reeve, has thrown new light on the problem of Colton's proposed new burial ground. It was produced at last week's meeting of Colton Parish Council and read.

"I do not think it would be at all proper for me to express my views on the position as regards the proposed churchyard extension, nor on the rector's statement, a copy of which he had already sent me on October 28," says the Bishop.

"While I regret that there should be any ill-feeling concerning these matters, it would clearly be impossible for me to say whether anyone is to blame, and certainly I could have no authority to settle disputes or differences between the Rector and Parish Council, the latter being a secular body.

"I am, therefore, unable to take any kind of action in the matter Should it be alleged that the ground proposed to be added to the Churchyard is in any way unsuitable, your Council could, of course, make representations on the matter, either to the local planning authority or to the Archdeacon of Stafford, whose duty it is to inspect the ground when it is offered for consecration and report to me whether it is suitable or not."

Clerk to the Council, Mr. S. J. Timmins, read another letter dated November 22nd, from the Clerk's department of the County Council as to the position regarding the 'Green' near the brook bridge between Bellamour Corner and the school. This made it clear that the County Council did not appear to have any ownership in it or control over it, apart from a public footpath which crosses the land.

Chairman, Mr. F. Hardcastle said the Parish Council had responsibilities towards the 'Green' and it was agreed that members meet there early in the New Year to consider how best it should be dealt with.

LETTER FROM RECTOR

Yet another letter was produced. This time from the Rector of Colton, Reverend A. S. Towlson concerning the land between the existing highway boundary and the improvement line. He inquired if the Parish Council had any objection to the Rector's proposal to purchase the land in question.

Committee early in January.

If, however, there was objection he considered it best to postpone the next Parochial Church Council meeting till after the views of the Advisory Committee were known. In the interim no further work would be put in hand apart from making the existing church drive more tenable for use by churchgoers.

Mr. Towlson pointed out further that in his view there was an advantage in opening up formal negotiations for dedication to the County Council as highway authority now, as distinct from leaving it over till some unspecified future date.

A new boundary fence of some kind was an acknowledged necessity and upon the successful completion of negotiations there would be the question of compensation from the County Council to the Parochial Church Council, which would go a long way towards meeting the cost of materials for the proposed boundary-retaining wall.

If that compensation was not forthcoming, or at least there was a promise that it would be forthcoming at a later date, there might well be a serious hold-up in the progress of the present phase of work, bringing hardship to bereaved people and a continual eyesore to all, for there was a limit to the amount which could be raised by other means in a short period of time.

He added that the formal approval of the Church Council and of the Diocesan Authorities would be required to make any dedication effective. Mr. Towlson concluded by pointing out the advantages for the Church and indeed the whole village community of a favourable outcome of that meeting were self

The Rugeley Times, Saturday, March 25, 1961.

Colton controversy still unsettled

COLTON'S views on the controversial road improvement scheme put in hand by the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, were further ventilated at the annual General Assembly held in the Reading Room on Monday.

After the matter had been raised by a speaker at the Assembly, the clerk, Mr. S. J. Timmins, read a copy of the last letter which had been sent by the Parish Council's solicitors, and to which, he said, there had been no reply. The council felt that the matter should have been settled long ago.

Mr. Cooper maintained that it was a matter for those who used the right-of-way to reach agricultural land beyond the brook, and the clerk pointed out that a public footpath was involved, which made it the concern of the Parish Council.

Mr. W. A. Norman argued that the work done by the rector had not blocked the right-of-way, as agricultural vehicles could easily get by, despite the kerb placed there

An audible comment made during the discussion was: "If we still had the old rector, we would still be in the same rut," which brought forth the retort: "It was a good rut."

Councillor A. N. Felton pointed out that the kerb was not in the original scheme, and the cost had at first been estimated at £50. It was now in the region of £600.

Mr. J. Peet said many people in the village did not realise that the rector's scheme for modernising the village Alms Houses had been helped greatly by the Parish Lands Trust, which had given £500 for the scheme, and £50 for the church

COLTON W.I. PLANNING NEW YEAR PARTY

The December meeting of Colton Women's Institute, held in the Reading Room on Wednesday, was an open one. Mrs. Ivy Preston (president), presided. An invitation from Etching Hill to their New Year party was accepted, and Mrs. N. Jones and Mrs. V. Pratt will represent the Institute.

The party at Blithfield was attended by Mrs. E. M. Sargent and Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, and it was decided that the usual arrangements be made for a New Year party on January 18.

It was stated that the recent whist drive had been a success in spite of the bad weather, and Mrs. Preston thanked all who had helped in the effort.

Mrs. Preston introduced Mr. Osbourne, of the Milk Marketing Board, who gave a talk on the various types of English cheeses, and illustrated his talk with a film on the making of Cheddar cheese.

Mr. Osbourne, who distributed samples of the cheeses, was thanked by Mrs. N. Jones.

The competition for a cheese dish was won by Mr. M. L. Waters, and Mrs. B. N. Ravenscroft was second.

The Christmas gift stall was in charge of Mrs. L. Bettson and Mrs. Ravenscroft, and over £4 was taken. The mystery prize was won by Mrs. Bettson.

Tea hostesses were Mrs. C. M. Amyes, Mrs. D. M. Atkin, Mrs. I. R. Brown and Mrs. J. L. Taylor.

A letter was read from Mrs K. Wildblood thanking members who had helped at the Count Christmas Fayre held in Staff

W.I. members in hospital will be remembered

Colton W.I.'s first meeting in 1961 took place in the Reading Room, Mrs. I. Preston presiding. The scheduled speaker was Mr. F. W. Elliott, Midland Regional organiser for the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen, but illness prevented his attendance.

A suggestion by Mrs. Preston that letters, "get well" cards or flowers should be sent to any member who might be in hospital — a practice which had lapsed in recent years — was adopted, and Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft agreed to be responsible for the scheme.

Mrs. Preston pointed out that anyone was overlooked, it could be the fault of the Institute, not of any one person. It was the duty of every member to notify Mrs. Ravenscroft if they heard of a member being in hospital.

Mrs. N. Jones's suggestion of a "sick box" was also accepted.

Members were told that arrangements were complete for their New Year party and were given details regarding the county outing to Edinburgh in June. Mrs. M. S. Toy appealed for ideas for the new schedule, which would be drawn up in the near future.

The remainder of the evening was devoted to social events. Mrs. Toy arranged a newspaper team game, and Miss D. M. Jones a bottle drive, the winner of this being Mrs. D. Deacon.

Tea hostesses were Mesdames I. Preston, P. B. Best and P. L. Banister. Mrs. Hilda Williscroft was in charge of the stall.

The December meeting of the Women's Institute held in the Reading Room was an open one, with Mrs. Ivy Preston (president) presiding. The minutes were read and confirmed, and the County letter read. An invitation from Etching Hill to their New Year party was accepted and Mrs N. Jones and Mrs V. Pratt agreed to go. The party at Blithfield was attended by Mrs E. M. Sargeant and Mrs B. M. Ravenscroft. It was decided that the usual arrangements be made for our own New Year party on January 18. It was stated that the recent whist drive was a success in spite of the bad weather, and Mrs Preston again extended thanks to those who had helped in any way in this effort.

Mrs Preston next introduced Mr Osbourne of the Milk Marketing Board, who gave a talk on the various types of English cheese, and illustrated his talk with a film on the making of Cheddar scheese. Mr Osbourne answered questions and gave samples of the various cheeses; and was thanked by Mrs N. Jones, seconded by Mrs L. Jackson.

The competition for a cheese dish was won by Mrs M. L Waters, and second, Mrs B. M. Ravenscroft. The Christmas gift stall was in charge of Mrs L Bettson and Mrs Ravenscroft, and over £4 was taken at

The mystery prize was won by Mrs Bettson, and the tea hostesses were Mrs C. M. Amyes, Mrs D. M. Atkin, Mrs I. R. Brown and Mrs J. L. Taylor. A letter was read from Mrs K. Wildblood thanking those members who had helped in any way with the recent very successful County Christmas Fa held in Stafford.

COLTON

On the fourth Sunday in Advent the carol service was held in St Mary's Church, Colton. Lessons were read by Mr. J. Tittensor, Mrs J. L. Taylor, Mr. D. E. Waters, Mr Tom Preston, Mrs. Martin (ver recently returned from Australia and the Rector. A good selection of carols were sung, and those sung by the choir alone were "Ding Dong Merrily on High," "See amid the Winter Snow," "Angels from the Realms of Glory" and "Little Jesus Sweetly Sleep." Mrs. G. E. Fi nemore was the organist.

Open Day.—An open day was arranged at St. Mary's Church School, when a good number of parents and friends were welcomed in the gaily decorated class rooms. Also present were the Rector (Rev A. S. Towlson). Mr. Fred Hardcastle (chairman of the parish council) and Mrs. Hardcastle, Mr. B Bettson (churchwarden) and Mrs Bettson.

Mrs. M. S. Toy's infant class again did their Nativity play, "How far is it to Bethlehem," in which the following took part: Doreen Atkin (the narrator), Delia Knight (Mary) Audrey Stretton (Joseph), Trudy Grimley, Glynnis Jones and Teresa Ritchie (Angels), Lynn Peake, Elaine Leeke and Christine Bennett (Shepherds). The Three Kings were Michael Preston, John Norman and Maxwell Cooper.

The parts of children who made the journey to Bethlehem were taken by Aldo Monticoli, Judy Evans, Rosemary Slater and Enid Powell. The same infants gave a dancing display. The older children sang songs from "Singing Ttogether" and "Rhythm and Melody" books, and Beethoven's song, "Creation." Three carols were played on recorders by Mr. D. E. Waters, Dianne Grimley, Pamela Jones and Gwendoline Ravenscroft. The programme ended with the short service usually held each Friday afternoon before school closes for the week-end. The Rector gave the Blessing.

The pupils of St. Mary's Church School had their Christmas party on the 20th, the last day at school before the holidays. As is usual children who will be starting school in the next few months were invited, and a very happy time was spent by all. Presents of books were handed out by "Father Christmas."

On the evening of the 20th, the members of Colton Youth Club had a Christmas party held in the school organised by their leader, Mr. D. E. Waters. An enjoyable evening

Polled steer, which won the Christmas fatstock sale a day. Bred by the exhibitors is bought by Mr. H. Plant, o on a new trophy, a breeder's ured from left to right are (judge), Mr. G. H. Brown (judge) and Mr. George

BISHOP CANNOT EXPRESS VIEWS ON COLTON BURIAL GROUND CONTROVERSY

Parish Council is told

A FURTHER outcome in the Colton burial ground controversy is the receipt of a letter from the Bishop of Lichfield, Dr. A. S. Reeve, stating that he cannot express any views on the position as regards the proposed churchyard extension nor on the Rev. Towlson's statement to the Parish Council.

The letter was read to members of Colton Parish Council at their meeting on Friday.

The clerk, Mr. S. J. Timmins, first read a letter from the Clerk's Dept. of the County Council about the position respecting the "green," near the brook bridge between Bellamour Corner and the school. The letter made it clear that the County Council did not appear to have any ownership of it or control over it, apart from the public footpath which crossed the land. The County Council were of course responsible for seeing this footpath was not obstructed in any way which it was not at the time.

The chairman of the Parish Council, Mr. F. Hardcastle, said the Parish Council had responsibilities towards the green and they agreed to meet there early in the New Year to consider how best it should be dealt with.

A letter from the Rector, Rev. A. S. Towlson, regarding the position concerning the land between the existing highway boundary and the improvement line, enquired if the Parish Council had any objection to the County Council's established Improvement Line. If not, he asked if the Parish Council would notify the County Council to this effect (at the same time letting him have a copy of the letter for reference purposes) as he had heard from the County Council that the proposed dedication of the land in question was to come up for hearing at a meeting of the County Roads and Bridges Department's Uttoxeter Area Advisory Committee early in January.

POSTPONE P.C.C.?

If however, there was objection (which the Rector said he did not anticipate) then he considered it best, as already expressed in a letter he had written to the

operations which had been commenced continuing. Mr. Hardcastle pointed out that he was himself present as a spectator at the meeting, and that no formal resolution on the issue at stake was made. In the circumstances he maintained that the position remained the same as it was prior to the meeting.

AT THIS STAGE

Mr. Hardcastle remarked that he did not fancy acceding to the Rector's request at this stage. He would first like to see agreement reached between the Rector and the Church Council as to the extent and nature of operations yet to be carried out. He accordingly moved that the County Council be advised on these lines.

Mr. R. Morrall supported this move, which was carried unanimously. The meeting also resolved that similar letters should be sent to the Rector, the Secretary of the Church Council (Mr. Best), and to the Bishop of Lichfield (Dr. A. S. Reeve).

The Clerk was further instructed to inform the Secretary of the Church Council that the Parish Council would be quite ready to entertain the idea of a joint meeting between the Parish Council and the Church Council should the latter feel it might be helpful towards securing the support and sympathetic consideration of the Parish Council in formulating any modification of the new burial ground scheme.

Mr. Timmins (Clerk) felt too much stress was being laid on the assumed necessity of proceeding with the operations on the grounds of urgency of the problem. He contended that burials could be commenced on the "unbulldozed" part of the new ground pending a settlement.

Colton M.U.

The January meeting of Colton Mothers' Union took place in the

Colton Council to submit proposals to Bishop's legal adviser

ON GRAVEYARD IMPROVEMENT PLAN

COLTON Parish Council has decided to submit their proposals regarding the Rector's churchyard improvement scheme to the Bishop of Lichfield's legal adviser.

They decided this at their meeting on Thursday last week in the hope that such a step would settle the council's dispute with the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson.

The Parish Council claims that part of the land which Mr. Towlson is including in his scheme is owned by the public and is asking for a right of way which it claims has been obstructed, to be reinstated, and for a fence to be erected marking out the boundary of the church land.

Mr. L. Mellor referred to the right of the owners and occupiers of fields round the brookside to pass over the "green" with agricultural vehicles and implements, and along the brook course for the purpose of securing access to those fields.

He mentioned the portion of the "green" lying between the brook and a curved line of kerbstones put in between the end of the parapet wall of the brook bridge and the gateway leading into the Rectory yard. Mr. Mellor contended that the kerbstones were much too high for agricultural vehicles and live stock to pass over and he moved that a section of the kerbs should be lowered and the surface over which vehicles and livestock had to pass be reinstated as it originally existed.

It was pointed out that after allowing for the right of way over the "green" three pieces of land comprised in the "green" remained to be dealt with, and it was unanimously agreed that in the first place these should be grassed over and shrubs should be planted when the ground was again firmly established.

The desirability of a fence between the new burial ground and the part of the "green" which adjoined it was discussed, and it was resolved to ask the Rector to erect one.

It was decided that in case the Parish Council's proposals were rejected without some very sound reason being put forward their solicitors be instructed to take any steps which might appear necessary to restrain the Rector from having any further work done likely to affect the "green."

Colton Produce Guild visits Kew Gardens

Members and friends of Colton Village Produce Guild enjoyed delightful weather on their trip to Kew Gardens on Sunday. For many of them it was their first trip along the M.1.

Arriving at Kew, the company was met at the main gates by Mr. Trevor Preston, eldest son of the guild's vice-chairman, and conducted round the gardens and glasshouses. They found them

Children of St. Mary's Sch
Colton, pictured in the chu
on Friday, after presentir
Nativity play as part of t
Christmas service.

Colton children in Nativity play

PUPILS of St. Mary's School, Colton, went to the Parish Church to take part in a carol service and Nativity play on Friday, this being the first of the Christmas events at Colton. A large number of parents and friends attended the service, at which prayers were offered by the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, and

Colton to exhibit at Rodbaston June Rally

THERE was a record attendance at the April meeting of the Colton Village Produce Guild held in the Reading Room on Thursday of last week, Mr. J. H. Toy presiding.

June 25 was decided upon as the date for the proposed outing to Kew Gardens, which is being arranged by Mr. Trevor Preston. Names were taken of those members wishing to attend the County Rally at Hodnet Hall on April 29.

Mr. R. A. Brundle, who sits on the County Executive Committee, gave details of forthcoming county events. He said it had been decided not to contribute to the County Show this year, but instead to stage exhibits at the Food Production Rally at Rodbaston Farm Institute in June. Colton had been asked to make the arrangements, and Abbots Bromley and Colwich representatives were to serve on the committee, together with Colton members, Mrs. M. S. Toy, Mr. Brundle, Mrs. D. Timmins and Mr. A. Meddings.

Mr. Toy suggested that a small rose show should be held at the Guild's July meeting.

A film show given by Mr. S. J. Timmins included Mrs. J. L. Taylor's films of Persia, taken during her visit to that part of the world last year. Mrs. Taylor gave a commentary and was thanked by Mr. Percy Tabernor.

Films on various pests and diseases were also shown by Mr. Timmins, who was thanked by Mrs. Ivy Preston.

The keenly contested competition for an arrangement of spring flowers was judged by Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. G. Mellor. Prizes were awarded to Mesdames D. Timmins, M. S. Toy, I. Preston and E. H. Tabernor.

Mrs. M. E. Hibbs, Miss D. M. Jones, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft and Miss G. Ravenscroft were tea hostesses

COLTON W.I. OFFICIALS ELECTED

The annual meeting of C W.I. was held in the Rea Room on Wednesday of last Mrs. I. Preston who presided comed three visitors.

Mrs. P. M. Buckley (secr gave a report on the year and was thanked by Mrs. Ravenscroft and Mrs. I. R. Mrs. P. L. Bannister (tre presented the financial sta which was adopted on the sition of Mrs. M. S. Toy, se by D. M. Jones.

Mrs. Preston thanked Buckley and Mrs. Bannis their work and expressed that Mrs. Bannister was re

As there was only one nominee for the committee it was agreed that all should be elected.

The following officials were appointed: President, Mrs. I. Preston; secretary, Mrs. P. M. Buckley; treasurer, Mrs. I. R. Browne; assistant treasurer, Mrs. E. M. Sergeant; first vice-president, Mrs. M. S. Toy; second vice-president, Mrs. N. Jones; committee: Mrs. D. M. Atkin, Miss D. M. Jones, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, Miss E. Rotchell, Mrs. J. L. Taylor, Mrs. M. L. Waters.

The tellers were Mr. M. Willis-croft and Mr. R. H. Bannister, who were thanked by Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Waters.

It was decided to hold a rummage sale for show funds on April 8, to be arranged jointly with the Village Produce Guild.

The Institute are planning a visit to Dove Valley Bakeries in the summer and they hope to stage "The Flower Shop Window" exhibit at the county show.

COLTON PARISH COUNCIL HAVE A LONG SITTING

THERE was a full attendance at Monday's meeting of Colton Parish Council which lasted for three and a half hours. At the conclusion, Councillor F. Hardcastle (chairman) referred to Press reports and it was decided that the clerk, Mr. S. J. Timmins, should write to the editors of local newspapers expressing appreciation of the accurate way in which the local Press representatives carried out their difficult job

The clerk reported that Mr. Michael Exham, diocesan solicitor, had stated that the rector agreed to the removal of the kerbstones on the site near the bridge, provided the Parish Council made a permanent footpath there.

On the proposition of Councillor B. Bettson, and seconded by Councillor R. Morrall it was decided to maintain an objection to various matters connected with the burial ground scheme as they remained at present, in view of the joint meeting with the Parochial Church Council which had already been arranged.

The meeting was held on Friday.

Councillor Hardcastle said it had been a pleasure to work with the present members of the Parish Council and he did not think there had ever been a more active council in Colton. It had been his intention to retire and make way for a

centre of the village, but they could not make a contribution towards a bus shelter.

Councillor Timmins reported that he had purchased a mower for use at the war memorial, and his action was approved. He announced that entry forms had been received for the Best kept Village Competition.

It was decided to leave it to the competition local committee to state which "eyesores," over which they had no control, should be noted on the entry form.

Councillor R. Morrall reported on his conversation with the surveyor of Lichfield Rural Council regarding the sewerage system, on which there was no further development.

The concern felt by villagers regarding the building of further houses before the sewerage system was completed drew comment from councillors.

Reading Room

Regarding the management of the Reading Room, Councillor Hardcastle said he felt it was time some action was taken, and the clerk was instructed to write to the rector, as chairman of the trustees asking him to call a meeting of the trustees before the end of April.

It was stated that the trustees had not met for four years.

It was decided that if the rector does not call a meeting, the trustees should consider convening one themselves.

Colwich and Colton Produce Guilds teams pictured (below) after the quiz. Seated right are Mr. F. W. Farrar and Mr. Mowforth. The Colwich team on the left are Mrs. G. Castellan (standing), Mrs. S. Hopper, Mrs. S. Gibson and Mr. F. H. Bannister (seated). Standing (left to right) are the Colton team: Mr. T. Preston, Mr. J. F. Peet, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft and Miss Mary Preston. The picture (above) shows some of the members of the two village Guilds who enjoyed listening to the quiz. Colton won by 43 points to 37.

PRODUCE GUILDS COMPETE IN QUIZ

AT a gardening quiz held in Colwich School hall on Tuesday, with Colwich and Colton Village Produce Guilds competing, Colton won by 43 points to 37. Points were lost by Colwich on the questions: "Why does mistletoe grow on a tree?" "What is the real Christmas tree?" and "Name the pot plant known as Christmas Cherry."

Among the questions on which Colton scored full marks were the following with a Christmas interest: "Why do some holly trees not have berries?" "Which plant is known as the Christmas Rose?" "What spray is used on fruit trees about Christmastime?" and the name of the wall shrub in flower at Christmas.

Mr. F. W. Farrer, county secretary, was questionmaster, and Mr. R. K. Mowforth, of Rodbaston Farm Institute, assisted.

The teams were as follows: Colton: Mr. T. Preston, Mr. J. F. Peet, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft and Miss Mary Preston; Colwich: Mr. F. H. Bannister Mr. S. Gibson, Mrs. S. Hopper and Mrs. G. Castellan.

Mr. J. Lewis, chairman, welcomed the members from Colton and said the evening, so far as Colwich was concerned, was an experiment. He thanked Mr. Mowforth and Mr. Farrer for conducting the quiz, referring to Mr. Mowforth as a television star, following his Christmas Day appearance from Rodbaston.

After the quiz, Mr. Lewis arranged games, Miss D. Bowen, who won the rhyming clothing quiz, played the piano for musical chairs, and accompanied the singing of "Auld Lang Syne," which, with the National Anthem, brought the evening to a close.

Refreshments were served by ladies of the committee.

Colton Guild outing

About 20 members of Colton Village Guild went to Shareshill on Thursday last week to help and support the formation of a Produce Guild there. The County Chairman, Mr. F. W. Farrer enlightened the local people on the aims and objects of the Village Produce Guilds Association, and the benefits to be obtained from the formation of an affiliated Guild.

Mrs. M. S. Toy addressed the meeting in her usual capable manner, telling how Colton Guild started four years ago with only nine members and the rapid growth in membersnip which followed.

Mr. J. H. Toy stressed the

COLTON

Presiding at the June meeting of the Colton Women's Institute held in the Reading Room, Mrs. I. Preston (president) welcomed Mrs F. Wain who, having represented Colton at the National Federation A.G.M, visited members to give her report.

A vote of thanks to Mrs Wain was proposed by Mrs B. M. Ravenscroft Mrs Preston next introduced Miss Johnson, who gave a talk, and showed a film on cheese.

Miss Johnson was thanked by Mrs Sanders. Business matters mentioned included the outing to the Dove Valley Bakeries next month. Mrs M. S. Toy (chairman of the "Best Kept Village" competition

GUILD VISITORS ENTERTAINED AT COLTON SOCIAL

A NEW item was a feature of the annual social of Colto Village Produce Guild, held in the Reading Room c Thursday of last week. It was a "fairy story" told by Mr S. J. Timmins, in which Colton was "Mouse Land" and th "Rugeley Times" was referred to as the "Mouse Lan Times". During the reading, Mr. S. J. Timmins ga sketches of various Guild members as mice, which we warmly applauded.

In a gaily decorated room, complete with Christmas tree, Mr. J. H. Toy, chairman, welcomed members and guests, who included visitors from the Colwich and Abbots Bromley Guilds.

In a mime, "The Twelve Days of Christmas," produced by Dorothy Jones, the following took part:— Mary Preston (Hostess), Cecily Amyes (Partridge in a Pear Tree), Jim and Margaret Toy (Two Turtle Doves), Cecil Ravenscroft (Three French Hens), Blanche Ravenscroft (Four Calling Birds), Michael Garwood (Five Gold Rings), Peggy Peet (Six Geese a-laying), Jeff Peet (Seven Swans a-swimming), Ruth Ravenscroft (Eight Maids a-milking). Susan Hibbs (Nine Ladies dancing), Roy Bridgens (Ten Lords a-leaping), Judith Preston (Eleven Pipers piping) and Jack Meddings (Twelve Drummers drumming). Dorothy Jones accompanied the mime on the piano.

A wall game, arranged by Mrs. M. S. Toy, and "musical arms" and "musical parcel," arranged by Mrs. E. Preston, were among the games played to warm up the evening. They were followed by a Morris dance by Jack Brown; a song, "Off to Philadelphia in the Morning," by Gwendoline Ravenscroft, accompanied by Cecil Ravenscroft; and an amusing game, arranged by Mr. and Mrs. Timmins, which was won by Mr. Jack Brown.

The serving of refreshments was supervised by Mesdames M. S. Toy, I. Preston, H. M. Felton and E. M. Sergeant, and a Christmas cake was cut by two visitors, Mrs. Laura Wilson, secretary of Abbots Bromley Guild, and Mrs. Irene Mort, of Colwich Guild.

More games were arranged by Mrs. E. Preston, and Ruth Ravenscroft sang two songs, accompanied by Tom Done.

The evening concluded with dancing to music by Tom Done (piano), Reg Bannister (violin) and Ben Jackson (drums). A competition, organised by Miss Ellen Rotchell, was won by Micha Russell.

After the singing of "Auld Lar Syne" thanks to Colton Gui were expressed by Mr. A. Amphlett (chairman) on behalf Abbots Bromley Guild, and by M H. Stockton, for Colwich ar District Guild.

COLTON PRODUCE GUILD SOCIAL EVENING

Colton Village Produce Guil held their annual social evenin in the Reading Room on Thurs day last week, when the room ha been decorated complete wit large Christmas tree. Mr. J. H Toy (Chairman) welcomed mem bers and guests including mem bers from Abbots Bromley an Colwich Guilds.

A wall game had been arrange by Mrs. M. S. Toy; musica arms and musical parcel (ar ranged by Mrs. E. Preston) wer played, and Jack Brown (a member who is also the Stafford shire representative to the Eng lish Folk Dance Society) per formed a Morris Dance. The song "Off to Philadelphia in the morning," was sung by Gwendo line N. Ravenscroft, accompanied on the piano by Mr. C. J. Ravens croft. An unusual game which caused a lot of fun was arranged by Mr. and Mrs. Stuart J. Tim mins, and won by Mr. Jack Brown. A mime "Twelve Days of Christmas," was produced by Dorothy Jones, those taking part being: "Hostess," Mary Preston; "Partridge in the Pear Tree," Cecily Amyes; "Two Turtle Doves," Jim and Margaret Toy; "Three French Hens," Cecil Ravenscroft; "Four Calling Birds," Blanche Ravenscroft; "Five Gold Rings," Michael Garwood; "Six Geese alaying," Peggy Peet; "Seven Swans aswimming," Jeff Peet; "Eight maids amilking," Ruth Ravenscroft; "Nine Ladies dancing," Susan Hibbs; "Ten Lords aleaping," Roy Bridgens; "Eleven pipers piping," Judith Preston; "Twelve drummers drumming" Jack Meddings. Miss Jones accompanied at the piano.

Next came the plentiful refreshments, in charge of which were Mrs. M. S. Toy, Mrs. Ivy Preston, Mrs. H. M. Felton, and Mrs. E. M. Sargeant. A Christmas cake was cut by Mrs. Laura Wilson (Secretary of Abbots Bromley Guild) and Mrs. Irene Mort (Colwich). Other games arranged by Mrs. E. Preston were played, followed by two songs sung by Ruth B. Ravenscroft, with Mr. T. Done at the piano.

An entirely new item to Colton Social Evenings was put on by Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Timmins, which was the reading of what was supposed to be a fairy story by Mrs. Timmins, in which Colton was "Mouse Land," and Mr. Timmins did sketches.

Dancing was included in the programme, the band members being Tom Done (piano), Ben Jackson (drums, etc.), and Reg Bannister (violin). The competition for a bottle of sherry was in charge of Miss Ellen Rotchell, and was won by Michael Russell.

Colton quiz

Last week's quiz held at Colwich School between Colton and Colwich Village Produce Guilds was well attended and enjoyed by supporters of both teams. The quiz formed part of a social evening organised by the Colwich Guild.

Mr. J. Lewis (Chairman of Colwich) welcomed all who had braved a wet evening to attend, also thanking Mr. F. W. Farrar (County Chairman) and Mr. R. K. Mowforth, of Rodbaston Farm Institute for coming to Colwich that evening.

Mr. Farrar was the Question Master for the quiz, and Mr. Mowforth acted as judge, and the team members were:— Colton: Mr. T. Preston, Mr. J. F. Peet, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft and Miss Mary Preston. Colwich: Mr. F. H. Bannister, Mr. S. Gibson, Mrs. S. Hopper and Mrs. G. Castellan.

Colton won by 43 points to Colwich team's 37. The questions were topical and mostly having a Christmas interest.

A tape recording of an interesting event in the life of Colton Guild was played by Mr. E. J.

COLTON

Produce Guild.—The guild held their annual social evening in the reading room which had been most gaily decorated complete with large Christmas tree. Mr. J. H. Toy (chairman) welcomed members and guests, including members from Abbots Bromley and Colwich Guilds. This was followed by a most interesting and varied programme. A wall game had been arranged by Mrs. M. S. Toy Musical arms and musical parcel (arranged by Mrs F. Preston) were played, and Jack Brown (a member who is also the Staffordshire representative to the English Folk Dance Society) performed a Morris dance. A song was sung by Gwendoline N. Ravenscroft, accompanied on the piano by Mr C Ravenscroft.

An unusual game which caused a lot of fun was arranged by Mr. and Mrs Stuart J Timmins and won by Mr. Jack Brown. A mime 'Twelve Days of Christmas' produced by Dorothy Jones, was given and those taking part were, Mary Preston, Cecily Amyes, Jim and Margaret Toy, Cecil Ravenscroft, Blanche Ravenscroft Michael Garwood, Peggy Peet, Jeff Peet, Ruth Ravenscroft, Susan Hibbs, Roy Bridgens, Judith Preston, Jack Meddings; Miss Jones accompanied on the piano Refreshments were in the charge of Mrs. M. S. Toy, Mrs. Ivy Preston, Mrs. H. M. Felton and Mrs. E. M. Sargeant

A handsome Christmas cake was cut by Mrs. Laura Wilson (secretary of Abbots Bromley Guild) and Mrs Irene Mort (Colwich). Other games arranged by Mrs. E. Preston were then played, followed by two songs sung by Ruth B. Ravenscroft, Mr T. Done at the piano. An entirely new item to Colton social evening was put on by Mr. and Mrs. S. J Timmins, this was the reading of what was supposed to be a fairy story by Mrs. Timmins, in which Colton was 'Mouse Land' and Mr Timmins doing sketches of various guild members and one non-member as mice.

Dancing was included in the programme the band members being Tom Done, piano, Ben Jackson, drums etc and Reg Bannister, violin The competition for a bottle of sherry was in the charge of Miss Ellen Rotchell, and was won by Michael Russell. After the singing of 'Auld Lang Syne' and The National Anthem, thanks to the Colton Guild were expressed on behalf of Abbots Bromley by Mr. A

A Amphlett, chairman, who also remarked on the spirit existing in the marked on the spirit existing in the guilds Mr. Harry Stockton voiced the thanks of Colwich and District Guild for a most entertaining evening.

COLTON

Mothers' Union. — The Mothers' Union party was held as usual on Shrove Tuesday and an enjoyable evening was spent by members and their guests. Mrs J. L. Taylor (enrolling member) welcomed the company. A good meal was enjoyed, after which a game of whist was played, the M.C. being Mr Fred Norman. The non-whist players were able to join in a beetle drive in charge of Miss D. M. Jones. Whist winners were Mrs D. Deacon, Mrs G. Jones, Mrs I. James and Mr B. Bettson; longest sitters, Mr F. Norman and Mrs Westhorpe. Beetle drive winners were Miss Ruth B. Ravenscroft, Mrs V. M. Towlson and Keith Williscroft.

Mr J. A. Best gave one of his popular film shows, commencing with the Village Produce Guild film taken by Mrs S. J. Timmins. Thanks were extended to Mr Best by Mrs B. M. Ravenscroft. Small Valentine gifts were handed to Mrs E. M. Challinor, Mr Best and Mr F. Norman.

Miss Jones thanked the Mothers' Union on behalf of all guests, and the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" and the National Anthem brought

NE... SIDE WO... GIVE WAY

An impasse in Colton dispute

The joint meeting in the Colton School on Friday to discuss the disagreement with the Rector over matters connected with the burial ground served no useful purpose, the Rector (the Rev. A. S. Towlson) refusing to give way on any of his plans and the Parish Council refusing to lift their objections which, said Mr. Hardcastle (Parish Council Chairman) they had lodged as the result of complaints by the public.

Mr. J. H. Toy (who is not a member of either the Parochial Church Council or the Parish Council) presided and the Secretary was Mr. S. J. Timmins (Clerk to the Parish Council) who has no voting rights at its meetings. He is also the Sheriff's Officer.

Several parish councillors alleged that the Rector had taken too much on himself without the full consent, or indeed the knowledge, of his Parochial Church Council.

Mr. B. Bettson, who was Rector's Warden at the time when the dispute arose, once again stated his reasons for not agreeing with the Rector on this matter.

Many expressed their wish to see the whole thing settled in a democratic manner, and said they would not object to the rest of the scheme if the Rector would agree to close the new carriageway made through the ground from the school to the Rectory.

This the Rector would not agree to do.

No further meeting has been fixed for the present.

COLTON PARISH COUNCIL on Wednesday considered applying for an injunction in the High Court to restrain the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, from proceeding with his church road scheme until rights of the public over a portion of the land had been resolved. At the on-the-spot meeting they finally modified their attitude and decided to try to reach agreement with him regarding boundaries.

They resolved that a letter be sent to the rector asking him to halt the scheme while discussions take place, and allowing three days for a reply before they decide on taking necessary steps to restrain him from proceeding with the work in hand.

The land in dispute amounts to nearly one-fifth of the whole area which has been bull-dozed in preparation for a new burial ground, roads and car park, and is the corner near the brook bridge, formerly a triangular grass plot, parish councillors allege that this included a public right-of -way to farmland and footpaths at the rear.

The meeting on Wednesday was attended by Mr. R. E. Bloomfield, assistant county surveyor, who stated that there was only a footpath right-of-way which crossed the land, towards existing buildings near the brook. This was the only right-of-way returned in the public footpath survey of a few years ago and did not signify that it was anything more than accommodation access.

"It is a matter for yourselves and the Church authorities and not for the County Council. The rector apparently had valid planning permission issued in good faith by Lichfield Rural Council, the planning authority. This should have been safeguarded but apparently no certificate was issued in this case," Mr. Bloomfield said.

Right-of-way

At the outset of the meeting, Mr. F. Hardcastle (chairman), stated that they, as a parish council, considered the land near the brook was a public right-of-way. The area had been encroached on from both sides by the new road and burial ground.

"He has encroached on an open space and a public footpath," he claimed, saying that the rector could not plead ignorance, for he himself had warned him of the facts. "He has just gone ahead and ignored everyone. It is not that we want to retard progress, but progress should be made without infringing the rights of other people."

Mr. S. J. Timmins, clerk to the Parish Council, said the rector agreed that the land did not belong to the church, and the County Council said they did not own it, so the Parish Council considered they were the owners and it would appear to be public property.

Towards the end of the discussion Mr. Timmins said: "We would probably settle for this provided the rector would lower some kerbstones so that vehicles could gain access.

Mr. Hardcastle agreed, provided the rector allowed them the right to develop the plot. "We might wish to plant shrubs on it to beautify it," he said, pointing out that they were only meeting there to establish their rights.

Mr. L. Mellor said the footpath and vehicular access across the land had been his only access to four acres of glebe land, but Mr. Morrall also had right-of-way to his land beyond.

Will cost £500

The Rev. A.S. Towlson told the "Times" that the new road would cost at least £500 and he had undertaken to find the funds himself as no money was available. He had already launched an appeal. He said he thought the Parish Council were being obstructive instead of constructive. There was no truth in the suggestion that he was infringing land belonging to other people and he had, therefore, ignored the council's first letter asking him to stop the work.

"I want to make Colton Church the pride of the district. I feel that my time is better occupied with getting on with the job rather than talking about it," he added. 14/1/61

COLTON 9/1/61

The first meeting of 1961 took place in the Reading Room, Mrs. I. Preston (president) presiding. After the reading and confirming of the minutes of the December meeting, an apology was announced from the Midland Regional Organiser, Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen, Mr. F. W. Elliott, who had been booked to speak that evening, but being in hospital was unable to keep the appointment and hoped that on another date he would be able to visit Coton.

A few business matters were attended to, including a rather lengthy discussion on a suggestion brought forward by Mrs. Preston, about the sending of letters, get well cards, or flowers, to any member who might be in hospital, this custom having lapsed in the past few years.

It was decided to adopt the idea again and Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft agreed to be responsible for this, Mrs. Preston stating that if by accident any one was overlooked it should be regarded the fault of the Institute not of one person, and that any one hearing of a fellow member being in hospital it was their duty to notify Mrs. Ravenscroft, Mrs. N. Jones suggestion of starting a "Sick Box" was also agreed to.

Members were told that arrangements were complete for their New Year Party, and also gives a few details regarding the W.I. County outing to Edinburgh in June. Mrs. M. S. Toy asked if members had any ideas for the Show Schedule which will be drawn up in the near future.

After business, the rest of the evening was of a social nature, Mrs. Toy arranged a newspaper team game, and Miss D. M. Jones arranged a beetle drive, the winner of this being Mrs. D. Deacon. Tea hostesses were Mrs. Preston, Mrs. P. B. Best, and Mrs. P. L. Bannister. Mrs. Hilda Williscroft was in

20/ COLTON /61

The first meeting of 1961 for Colton W.I. took place in the Reading Room, Mrs. I. Preston (President) presiding. An apology was announced from the Midland Regional Organiser, Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen, Mr. F. W. Elliott, who was to speak that evening, but being in hospital, was unable to keep the appointment. A few business matters were attended to, including a rather lengthy discussion on a suggestion brought forward by Mrs. Preston about the sending of letters, get well cards, or flowers to any member who might be in hospital. This custom having lapsed in the past few years, it was decided to adopt the idea again, and Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft agreed to be responsible for it. Mrs. N. Jones' suggestion of starting a "sick box" was also agreed to. Members were told that arrangements were complete for their New Year Party. Mrs. M. S. Toy asked if members had any ideas for the Show Schedules which will be drawn up in the near future. After business, the rest of the evening was of a social nature; Mrs. Toy arranged a newspaper team game, and Miss D. M. Jones arranged a beetle drive, the winner being Mrs. D. Deacon. Tea hostesses were Mrs. Preston, Mrs. P. B. Best, and Mrs. P. L. Bannister. Mrs. Hilda Williscroft was in

Colton rector's appeal for church road fund

FOLLOWING recent controversy regarding work undertaken at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Colton, the rector, the Rev. A. Stanley Towlson, has now launched a fresh appeal under the heading of "Colton Church Road Fund."

In a circular to parishioners, he points out that the cost of necessary improvements to the road will be not less than £500 and that all necessary approvals, including Colton Parochial Church Council an Staffordshire County Council, have been obtained.

Apart from this, the rector is making himself personally responsible for raising the cash required.

Mr. Towlson writes "No funds of any description are at present available to pay for this work, which is regarded as being quite separate from other work in hand concerning the churchyard extensions.

"A lot of people have said that they would like to help towards the cost of this work, and the object of this circular is to let you know what is involved, in order that you may be able to think about it and see in what way you can help."

He puts forward suggestions for direct action. "Think of the price you have to pay for a pair of shoes —a lot more than it used to be!" he says. "Ask yourself how much you spend on other personal necessities, as well as luxuries. And then the things in your own home—T.V. set, washing machine, or whatever you have or save."

He asks that they consider putting aside a little more money over the next few weeks as a contribution.

One idea is the preparation of souvenir receipts for donations to cover the cost of limestone to be used on the road—88 tons at 17s. per ton and 120 tons at 13s. per ton.

"Would you pay for the cost of a ton of limestone and so become a roadmaker?" the rector asks.

Donations towards the cost of labour charges involved would also be gratefully acknowledged.

With regard to corporate efforts, Mr. Reg Martin, of Bellamour Farm, Colton, and helpers, are organising a dance to be held at Rugeley Drill Hall on Saturday, February 25, aimed at covering the cost of extra drainage work priced at approximately £35. Apart from this, Lady Day (March 25), one of the festivals of Mary the Virgin, will be observed as gift day.

In appealing to other individuals to organise corporate effors, Mr. Towlson suggests that on such effort would cover the cost of the street-lamp type fittings which are connected to the rectory meter, so that the current used is not charged to the church.

Mr. Towlson also points out that the contractors, Messrs. Ballidon Quarries, Ltd., Ballidon, near Ashbourne, Derbyshire, have generously offered credit facilities up to six months if necessary, but if a lot of people do a little rather than having a few to do a lot, the job could be done and paid for sooner.

Colton Church Road fund opened 14/1/61

Work now having begun on the necessary improvements to the Church Road at Colton, the Rector of Colton, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, has opened a "Colton Church Road Fund" for the purpose of raising the money required.

Many people have intimated that they would like to help towards the cost of the work and a circular sent out by the Rector suggests ways in which they can help both individually and in corporate efforts.

The circular mentions a dance being organised by Mr. Reg. Martin of Bellamour Farm, Colton and his helpers in Rugeley Drill Hall on Saturday, February 25, the proceeds being for the Road Fund. Their aim is to raise £35 for the fund and it is Mr. Towlson's suggestion that other similar events could be organised.

Colton Produce Guild members at Bulb Show

Those members of Colton Village Produce Guild who attended the County Bulb Show on Saturday held at Tittensor Village Hall and arranged by the County Federation of Village Produce Guilds, enjoyed their afternoon immensely, to see the mass of lovely blooms alone was well worth the journey. The County Chairman, Mr. F. W. Farrer presided.

During the judging by Mr. T. N. Armstrong, Parks Supt., Wolverhampton, and Mr. P. W. C. Davies. Parks Supt., Newcastle-under-Lyme, two films were shown, the Bulb Fields of Holland and the Tulip Fields at Spalding, views in Wales, and events at the Maer Show. Mr. Farrer extended thanks to Mr. Lewis and Mr. Cooke for showing the films.

After tea and biscuits came the announcement of the results in the show. Professor Alan R. Gemmell, of the University College of North Staffordshire, Keele Hall, gave a witty talk, followed by his presentation of prizes. Colton were winners in the following classes: White Hyacinths, 2nd, Miss D. M. Jones; Blue Hyacinths, Highly Commended 1 point, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh McConkey, and Daffodils, 3rd, Mrs. M. S. Toy. Colton Guild had the same

Colton Parish Council requests alterations in rector's plans

ADVERTISER 26/1/61

LATEST phase in Colton's new burial ground controversy, was dealt with at a recent meeting of the Parish Council.

Discussion centred round the future of the site of the former "Green", or piece of waste land which existed prior to the new burial ground development, and on which the Rector, Rev. A. S. Towlson—purporting to act on behalf of St. Mary's Church—has had certain work carried out between the brook bridge and the church drive.

At the outset, the clerk, Mr S. J. Timmins, referred to the previous meeting of the council on December 16th, when they had considered a written request from the Rector asking that if the council did not object to the improvement line along the frontage of the new burial ground as laid down by the County Council, and the dedication by the church authorities to the County Council of a strip of land between the existing highway boundary and the improvement line they should notify the County Roads and Bridges department accordingly.

The Parish Council had agreed on that occasion not to accede to Mr. Towlson's request till they felt satisfied that there was a proper understanding between him (the Rector) and the church council regarding the extent and nature of any further operations to be carried out on the new burial ground.

"STOP WORK" REQUEST

Consequent on certain further operations on the site of the "Green" which followed that meeting, a firm of solicitors was consulted on behalf of the Parish Council who wrote requesting the Rector to have such work stopped by 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 14th, failing which, steps would be taken to seek a High Court injunction to restrain such work.

The Rector was also asked in the letter to state what his proposals were for restoring the "Green" as it originally existed.

On the afternoon of Wednesday January 11th, a meeting took place on the site between the Rector, the Assistant County Surveyor, the chairman, clerk and other representatives of the Parish Council.

As a result of the letter from the Parish Council's solicitors to the Rector, work on the "Green" came to a standstill, and the legal adviser to Lichfield Diocese Board of Finance, Mr Michael Exham, contacted the Parish Council's solicitors.

It appeared the Rector still contended that the Parish Council were unable to establish ownership of the "Green." A local parish councillor contended that his council did not claim ownership of the "Green," but as common land they had the right to step in and control it.

On Monday, January 16th, chairman of the Parish Council, Mr F. Hardcastle, together with the clerk and solicitors, met the Rector and Mr. Exham first at the Rectory and then at the site. Mr. Exham asked what ideas the Parish Council had in mind for dealing with the "Green," and was told that the Parish Council might want to have it grassed over and planted with trees and shrubs.

Mr. Hardcastle said it was arranged that if the Parish Council would put forward their proposals for dealing with the "Green," these would have the sympathetic consideration of the Church authorities, and if they seemed reasonable. Mr Exham stated that acceptance would be recommended. Mr. Exham undertook that if the Parish Council's were acceptable there would be no further interference by the Church with the "Green."

MAIN OBJECTIVE

Mr. Hardcastle said the prime objective of the present meeting was to formulate the Parish Council's proposals accordingly. Mr. L. Mellor referred to the right of the owners and occupiers of the fields known as "The Marsh," "The Holmes" and "The Sleetings" round the brookside to pass over the "Green" with agricultural vehicles and implements, and along the brook course for the purpose of securing access to those fields.

He referred also to that portion of the "Green" lying between the brook and a curved line of kerbstones put in between the end of the parapet wall of the brook bridge and the gateway leading into the Rectory yard. He contended that the kerbstones were much too high for agricultural vehicles and livestock to pass over.

Mr. Mellor moved it be requested that a section of the kerbs be lowered, and surface over which vehicles and livestock pass be reinstated as it originally existed. Mr Felton seconded, and it was carried unanimously.

It was further pointed out that after allowing for right of way over the "Green," three parcels of land comprised in the "Green" remained to be dealt with. The Parish Council unanimously agreed that in the first place these should be grassed over. A further resoluion aims at planting shrubs after the ground is firmly established.

The Parish Council also discussed the desirability of a fence between the new burial ground and the one parcel of the "Green" which adjoins it, and it was unanimously resolved to ask that one be erected by the Rector after the type had met with approval of the council.

FURTHER STEPS?

It was decided that in case the Parish Council's proposals were rejected without some very sound reason being put forward which would appear to justify such a course, the Parish Council's solicitors be instructed to take any steps which might appear necessary to restrain the Rector from having any further work done likely to affect the "Green."

In conclusion, the Parish Council instructed the clerk to draft out a letter explaining their attitude in regard to this matter, and for this —after approval by members—to be circulated among parishioners.

15 ADVERTISER 19/1/61

High Court injunction talking point

PARISH COUNCIL OFFICIALS AND RECTOR HOLD COLTON PARLEY

A MEETING between parish council representatives and the rector of Colton, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, was held in private on Monday morning and lasted 90 minutes, during which time the group inspected the part of Colton that has caused so much controversy between the rector and the parish council.

The Rector is having the road leading to St. Mary's Church properly made up at a cost of some £500, and is launching an appeal fund to pay for it. Trouble is that the parish council claim he has ploughed-up open space which belongs to them, and a public footpath. They also say he has placed kerbstones at the side of the road near the mouth so that tenants of agricultural land beyond the kerb cannot get their vehicles over to their land.

Another strip of land at present something like a bomb site, is the first thing the visitor sees as he crosses the Brook Bridge. This is also claimed by the council and represents some of the land being ploughed up in the Rector's scheme to improve and beautify the churchyard.

Monday's meeting followed a special parish council meeting on the previous Wednesday when the council hinted at seeking a High Court injunction to prevent the Rector continuing the work.

INJUNCTION QUERY

The Rector was accompanied by Mr. Michael Exham, legal advisor to the Bishop of Lichfield, while Mr. F. Hardcastle, chairman of the parish council and Mr. S. J. Timmins, clerk, were with the council's legal advisor, Mr. J. P. Taylor. They spent an hour in the rectory, and another 30 minutes at the disputed land.

After the meeting, the parish council representatives said they were not yet in a position to make a statement to the Press. Asked by the "Advertiser" if they were going to seek a High Court injunction, Mr. Taylor replied, "We are still talking about that."

Mr. Towlson told the "Advertiser" on Monday that the parish council had given him an ultimatum to stop the work by 2 p.m. on Saturday, January 14.

"Work is proceeding today as usual. My solicitor is dealing with any legal matters," he said. Mr. Towlson added that he was delighted at an apparent change of heart by the parish council during the meeting. He had "real reason to believe they will be co-operative rather than obstructive in the future"

He stated that the council have agreed to produce sketch plans of suggestions for the lay-out of shrubberies, "which will receive attention when I receive them."

About the kerbstones, he said he did not know which ones the council wanted him to remove, and went on to say he would seriously consider any suggestions for the betterment from anyone.

SOLE OBJECT

His sole object was to complete the Church Road scheme so that churchgoers and others will have a decent road to get to church.

"I would like the parish council to drop their complaints and join in and help in the scheme," he added.

About ownership of the land in question, Mr. Towlson had little comment to make, but he did issue a challenge to the parish council. "I challenge them to produce the deeds to the land involved," he said.

Colton dispute continues

21/1/61

In a three and a half hour bate on Thursday, Colton Parish ouncil passed four resolutions ncerning the dispute between e Council and the Rector, the v. A. S. Towlson, concerning e church road improvement eme.

They agreed that, should their eas be unreasonably rejected by e rector, the Parish Council's licitor be instructed to take cessary steps to restrain the ctor from having further work me.

The resolutions request that the hicular access and right-of-way ross the "green" near the brook idge be reinstated, and a sec- on of the kerbstone be lowered; at the ground, and the open ortion opposite, adjoining the ew burial ground, be grassed over, ith shrubs to be planted there ventually.

The council also stipulate that he rector should erect a boundary nce between the new burial round and the open land, to pecifications approved by the arish Council.

A circular letter is to be sent all parishioners explaining the easons for the council's actions. Thursday's council meeting followed a meeting on Monday between the rector, Mr. Michael xham, his legal adviser, and representatives of the council, hen no agreement was reached.

Colton sale

A jumble and bring and buy sale was held in Colton Reading Room on Saturday, organised by the Women's Institute and Village Produce Guild for Show funds. Between £19 and £20 was made, helpers being, Door Attendant, Mr. G. E. D. Atkin (Sen.); Stalls, Mrs. I. Preston, Mrs. D. Timmins, Miss D. M. Jones, Mrs. N. Jones, Mrs. A. Meddings, Mrs. P. M. Bucklev, Mrs. P. L. Bannister, Mrs. D. Deacon and Miss E. Rotchell. Refreshments were in the hands of Mrs. E. M. Sargeant, Mrs. H. M. Felton, Mrs. M. S. Toy and Mrs. E. Atkin. The competition for two chickens was in the charge of Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, assisted by Miss Ruth and Gwendoline Ravenscroft, the winners being Mrs. Toy and Mrs. Olive G. Upton.

Mercury 16/4/61

Colton M.U. meeting

The April meeting of Colt Mothers' Union held in the Re ing Room was well attend The Rector introduced Church Army Sisters (who at present on a Mission in

1,500 at Mothers' Union service

23/6/61

The annual Mothers' Union service at Lichfield Cathedral on Tuesday afternoon was attended by some 1,500 members of the Mothers' Union from the Stafford Archdeaconry, including the Diocesan President, Mrs J. Brierley, and other Diocesan officers.

All is well with the Youth Club movement

TIMES. 4/2/61

TUESDAY was not a pleasant evening, with lashing rain and howling wind keeping almost everybody indoors, but youth club members were not to be deterred by such a trifle as stormy weather. When a "Times" reporter and cameraman visited a few clubs they found good numbers present and the usual welcoming atmosphere, proving that it takes more than rain to dampen the ardour of these young club enthusiasts.

At Colton a thriving small club was found in the Reading Room. Led by the headmaster of St. Mary's School, Mr. D. E. Waters, it has made great strides since its formation eight months ago, though it has only 15 members.

Affiliated to the county Service of Youth, it has no other connections, and membership is open to all young people in the village area. Being still in the embryo stage, the formation of an adult committee has not yet been considered, and the members' committee of five are guided by Mr. Waters, who is not only mentor but secretary, too.

Kenneth Williscroft, Clifford Preston, Dennis Hibbs, Sylvia Goodall and Angela Collins serve on the members' committee, and of these, Kenneth and Dennis are Colton's representatives on Rugeley and District Youth Members' Council.

Though they have yet to win their first match, Colton have a team in the Rugeley Youth Table Tennis League and a game against Slitting Mill was in progress on Tuesday.

Darts, tennis, Totopoly—a variation of Monopoly—cards and other similar pastimes occupy club evenings for the majority, though some are also interested in dancing and a borrowed record player is made full use of by music fans.

Library facilities

One popular winter feature is the facility of borrowing County Library books at the club, for Colton Y.C. is registered as a branch and a supply of books, left in the care of Mr. Waters, is available each club evening.

A second club night is held on Thursdays in the winter months, during which Mr. Waters endeavours to increase members' interest in crafts. Already some are keen on model making and poster writing and they are now busy preparing posters for an open film show taking place on February 21.

Mr. Waters is a great believer in open nights as a means of letting parents and potential members see what a club is really like. Already they have had a film show and demonstrations of folk dancing by Mr. Jack Brown, the local expert and, following the film show on February 21, there will be a country dancing evening supervised by Mr. Brown on February 28.

Community service is not forgotten in Colton Y.C. and just before Christmas they surprised everyone by reaching £5 in their village collection for the Blind.

Back in Rugeley, the Mixed

The Colton Club boasts of a branch of the County Library. Seen (above) carrying some of the books for the club evening are (left to right) Ruth Ravenscroft, Sylvia Goodall and June Bannister. A Youth League table tennis match was played on Tuesday evening and in the picture above (right) the Colton team is seen with the visiting Slitting Mill team.

Mercury COLTON 17/3/61

The annual meeting of Colton W.I. held in the Reading Room was fairly well attended. The President (Mrs. I. Preston) presided, and the Secretary, Mrs. P. M. Buckley, who gave her report on the year's work, was thanked by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft and Mrs. I. R. Brown. Mrs. P. L. Bannister, Treasurer, presented her financial statement the adoption of which was moved, and a vote of thanks proposed by Mrs. M. S. Toy, seconded by Miss D. M. Jones. The President extended thanks to Mrs. Buckley and Mrs. Bannister for their work and expressed regret that Mrs. Bannister felt obliged to resign from the Committee. Mrs. Preston was again elected President; Mrs. Buckley, Secretary; Mrs. Brown, Treasurer; Mrs. E. M. Sargeant, Assistant Treasurer; 1st Vice-president, Mrs. M. S. Toy, and 2nd Vice-president, Mrs. N. Jones. The rest of the committee are: Mrs. D. M. Atkin, Miss Jones, Mrs. Ravenscroft, Miss Ellen Rotchell, Mrs. J. L. Taylor and Mrs. M. L. Waters. The tellers Mr. Maurice Williscroft and Mr. R. H. Bannister, were thanked by Mrs. Taylor and

Colton Guild gains awards at County Bulb Show

Times 25-2-61

A COUNTY bulb show, staged by the Village Produce Guilds' Association at Tittensor Village Hall, on Saturday, provided masses of spring blooms and members of local guilds who journey to see them felt well rewarded.

Mr. F. W. Farrer, county chairman, presided and the judges were Mr. T. N. Armstrong, parks superintendent of Wolverhampton, and Mr. P. W. C. Davies, parks superintendent of Newcastle-under-Lyme.

During the judging, films were shown of the bulb fields of Holland, the tulip fields at Spalding, views in Wales and events at the show at Maer.

The prizes were presented by Professor A. R. Gemmell, of the University College of North Staffordshire. Ashley Guild winning a brass bell for achieving the highest number of points.

A party of seven members attended the show from Colton and the following were successful exhibitors:—White hyacinths: 2.

BULB SHOW.—At the February meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild held in the Reading Room, the main interest was in a bulb show, the judge being Mr. Peter Fergusan, of Ingestre Hall gardens. Mr. J. H. Toy (Chairman) presided, and winners of the bulb show were announced as follow: Hyacinths in bowl, 1, Michael Garwood; 2, Mrs. E. H. Tabernor. Daffodils in bowl, 1, Mrs. D. Timmins; 2, Mrs. M. S. Toy. Tulips in bowl, Mrs. H. M. Felton. Mr. Fergusan presented the prizes, answered questions and gave a few general hints on bulb

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TIMES 4/2/61

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Colton Guild gains awards at County Bulb Show

TIMES 25/2/61

sited in the Grammar School playing field. And enjoying the school break are (left to right) Ruth Ravenscroft, Susan Kendrick and Susan Bratt.

TIMES 11/2/61

9/2/61 COLTON Advertiser

Produce Guild.—At the February meeting of the Village Produce Guild held in the Reading Room, the main interest was in a bulb show, the judge being Mr. Peter Fergusan, of Ingestre Hall Gardens. Mr. J. H. Toy (chairman) presided, saying how sorry everyone was that Mr. Tom Preston was ill in hospital.

After the minutes of the December meeting had been read and confirmed, the winners in the bulb show were announced as follows: Three hyacinths in bowl, 1 Michael Garwood; 2 Mrs. E. H. Tabernor; Four daffodils in bowl, 1 Mrs. D. Timmins, 2 Mrs. M. S. Toy; Six tulips in bowl, Mrs. H. M. Felton. Mr. Fergusan presented the prizes, and also answered questions and gave a few general hints on bulb growing, and was thanked by Mr. S. J. Timmins.

Business matters included, approval of a donation being forwarded for the county whist drive, this being held at Ashley it is almost impossible for members to attend, the same applies to the county dinner, this year to be held at The Derbett Arms, Market Drayton.

Some members hope to attend the county bulb show at Tittensor on the 18th. The chairman next asked the show committee to arrange a meeting for as soon as possible and this was fixed for the following week. Mr. Toy also reminded members about the change of rules to be laid down in the show schedules, which the committee decided was necessary after the last show.

Members' attention was drawn to the list of members put up in the room, the March meeting being the A.G.M., when voting will take place for the new committee, nominations are invited, members not interested in standing for committee were asked to cross their names off the list. A talk on landscape gardening was given by Mr. J. F. Peet. Thanks of the company to Mr. Peet were voiced by Miss Mary Preston. The tea hostesses were Mrs. H. M. Felton and Miss Ellen Rotchell.

COLTON PRODUCE GUILD STAGE BULB SHOW

AT the monthly meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild held in the Reading Room on Thursday of last week, main interest was centred in a bulb show, the judge being Mr. Peter Ferguson, of Ingestre Hall Gardens. Mr. J. H. Toy presided.

The winners were as follows: Hyacinths in bowl: 1, Michael Garwood; 2, Mrs. E. H. Tabernor; Daffodils in bowl: 1, Mrs. D. Timmins; 2, Mrs. M. S. Toy. Tulips in bowl: 1, Mrs. H. M. Felton.

Mr. Ferguson presented the prizes and also answered questions and gave a few general hints on bulb growing.

He was thanked on behalf of the members by Mr. S. J. Timmins.

Members will be unable to attend either the county whist drive or the county dinner, but a donation will be sent to the whist drive.

Some members intimated that they hope to attend the county bulb show at Tittensor on Saturday next.

The chairman asked the show committee to arrange a meeting as early as possible.

Mr. Toy reminded members about the change of rules to be introduced in the show schedules. In order to qualify for entry in the show it was necessary for members to have attended three meetings in the year, and their annual subscription must be paid up by the April meeting.

The annual meeting will be held in March when voting will take place to elect the new committee.

A talk on landscape gardening was given by Mr. J. F. Peet, who was thanked by Miss Mary Preston.

Tea hostesses were Mrs. H. M. Felton and Miss Ellen Rotchell.

Colton Produce Guild

10/2/61

At the February meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild held in the Reading Room on Thursday last week, the main interest was in a bulb show, the judge being Mr. Peter Fergusan, of Ingestre Hall Gardens. Mr. J. H. Toy (Chairman) presided, and said how sorry everyone was that Mr. Tom Preston was ill in hospital.

The winners in the bulb show were:— Hyacinths in bowl: 1, Michael Garwood; 2, Mrs. E. H. Tabernor. Daffodils in bowl: 1, Mrs. D. Timmins; 2, Mrs. M. S. Toy. Tulips in bowl: Mrs. H. M. Felton. Mr. Fergusan presented the prizes and also answered questions and gave a few general hints on bulb growing. He was thanked by Mr. S. J. Timmins.

A talk on Landscape Gardening was given by Mr. J. F. Peet; thanks of the company to Mr. Peet being voiced by Miss Mary Preston.

The tea hostesses were Mrs. H. M. Felton and Miss Ellen Rotchell.

Mercury

Colton collection

14/2/61

The recent house-to-house collection in the Colton area for

MR. JACK BROWN

TIMES 18/2/61

THOUGH born 34 years ago, Mr. Jack Brown, of The Cottage, Colton, claims to have really lived for only 11 years. He times his "re-birth" from the day he took up a full-time appointment with the English Folk Dance and Song Society, and began a decade of tours, performances and training sessions, including a number of international festivals.

Though a Shropshire lad—he was born at Whitchurch and apprenticed to a baker and confectioner — he was nevertheless called upon in 1948 to represent Staffordshire at an Albert Hall folk dance festival, such was the dearth of folk dancers in Staffordshire.

He had by that time served three years as a cook in the R.A.F., travelling to Italy and Austria, and worked as a grocers' representative — training which he now finds useful.

His interest in folk dancing began in his pre-Service youth club days, and after leaving the R.A.F. he continued as a club helper. Eventually he took up dancing in earnest and became the Shropshire and Staffordshire representative of the English Folk Dance and Song Society.

Coming to Staffordshire, he found that he was the only person who knew Morris dancing, but now he can proudly point to four teams — at Burton, Uttoxeter, Lichfield and Stafford — and numerous proficient individuals, all stemming from his appointment to the county.

He helped to revive the Morris dance traditional to Lichfield, which had not been seen for 50 years. On two occasions he led the Lichfield Men at the International Eisteddfod at Llangollen, where they gained third place.

On three occasions Mr. Brown danced at annual international folk dance festivals in Dublin and he has been presented to both Mr. De Valera and Mr. Costello. In 1953 he was one of 10 dancers selected to represent England among 26 countries at the World Festival of Folk Dance at Biarritz and Pamplona. In London, on two occasions he was chosen at festivals to perform solo jigs before Princess Margaret.

Mr. Brown has taught folk dancing in Rugeley and in many local youth clubs—he was at Etching Hill last night—and annually he makes 90 visits to youth clubs and about 30 visits to adult groups, including W.I.s and parties.

Mr. Brown met his future wife, Birmingham-born Miss Irene Harvey, at Stratford-upon-Avon, where she was a theatre sister. They bought their present old-world home at Colton while on their honeymoon six years ago. It is a modernised 15th century cottage which was formerly thatched. They have a three years-old daughter, Rachael.

Two years ago, Mr. Brown became part-time only with the Folk Dance Society and developed a general store at his home to serve the growing Heathway district of Colton. He is resigning completely from the Society in March.

A member of Colton Village Produce Guild, he has become a keen gardener. He is also fond of woodwork, and as a do-it-yourself fan has carried out many improvements to his home besides making furniture and models.

COLTON

ADVERTISER 15/2/61

At the first meeting of the Show Committee held in the Reading Room, all the committee attended, and elected Mr. S. J. Timmins to

COLTON

ADVERTISER 15/2/61

The February meeting of the Colton Women's Institute was held in the Reading Room, Mrs. I. Preston (president) presiding. After the minutes of the January meeting had been read and confirmed, and the County letter read, a few business matters were dealt with including the classes in the ladies section for the show schedule.

Ideas for the years programme were invited, and members reminded that the March meeting is the A.G.M. Mrs. Preston next welcomed Mr E. C. Toye, History master of Rugeley Grammar School, who gave a most interesting talk on local history, saying that the Church is the usual starting point in local history.

He had with him the Rev. F. P. Parker's (a former Rector of Colton) book, and read items from it, one or two members have this book themselves or have seen it, and were therefore most engrossed in what Mr. Toye had to say.

Questions were invited, and a vote of thanks to Mr. Toye was proposed by Mrs B. M. Ravenscroft, and seconded by Mrs M. L. Waters. A word-building competition from the words "Home and Country" was won by Mrs. N. Jones, prizes were won for bowls of bulbs by Mrs. H. Williscroft, with hyacinths, and Mrs H. M. Felton, with daffodils and tulips. Tea hostesses were Mrs L. Bettson, and Mrs. D. Deacon. The stall was in the charge of Mrs. Waters, and the mystery prize went to Mrs Deacon.

Bus shelter problem at Colton

16/2/61

Advertiser

LICHFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL have allocated one bus shelter for Colton district this year. The Parish Council are to ask the R.D.C. if this might be erected on a fairly wide strip of verge between the letter posting box and at the entrance to Heath Way and Brown's Row.

Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr. F. Hardcastle, raised the question of older schoolchildren waiting in the open on wet mornings outside Colton School for the arrival of the school bus to convey them to Hixon.

The Parish Council were of the opinion that this problem might be solved by erection of a bus shelter in the Pinfold betwen the telephone kiosk and the highway.

The clerk has been directed to recommend this idea to the County Education Dpartment, and to ask if they would be good enough to consider making a contribution towards the cost of purchase and erection.

He will ask at the same time if the department would arrange for the school bus service be extended so that older children could board the bus at Pinfold instead of outside the school.

HOME MISSIONS

Mr. W. J. Jones, Admaston, was chairman, when a film on Home Missions entitled "It Could Happen Here," was shown to members of the Uttoxeter Church. The Rev. H. R. Wilkinson, superintendent minister, gave an address.

Mothers' Union. — The March meeting of the Mothers' Union, held in the Reading Room, was very well attended. Mrs J. L. Taylor welcomed the Rev. and Mrs B. Matthews of Colwich. Mr Matthews conducted the service and gave a most inspiring reading.

Proposals hang fire at Colton

Advertiser 15/2/61

FURTHER discussion in connection with the "green" between the entrance to the church drive and the brook bridge, arising out of the recent burial ground controversy with the Rector of St. Mary's Church, Colton, was heard at last week's meeting of Colton Parish Council.

Clerk, Mr. S. J. Timmins, reported that in accordance with the arrangement made at the previous meeting of the council (January 19), the Parish Council's proposals for dealing with the "green" were submitted by their appointed solicitors to Mr. Michael Exham of Lichfield, who was acting as legal adviser to the Rector of Colton, the Rev. A. S. Towlson.

A reply from Mr. Exham referred to the rector's indisposition following a recent operation, and explained that for the time being he was not able to obtain his client's instructions. Meantime, Mr. Exham made certain observations on the proposals, some of which had already been dealt with by the Parish Council's solicitors.

In addition, Mr. Exham made the point that planting of shrubs—and possible placing of seats—should be subject to the rector's approval. Futher, the letter stated he did not think there was any need for any other body to be contacted at this stage.

"NEED FOR PLAN"

He also put forward the view that if future differences and disputes were to be avoided, it seemed to him quite essential to have a proper plan and specification prepared.

Mr. Exham asked that the Parish Council have these prepared and submit them to him for the rector's approval, while at the same time he expected the rector would submit the properly formulated proposals with plans and specifications to the Parochial Church Council in due course.

In conclusion, Mr. Exham said he could not see that the Bishop was in any way concerned in the natter under discussion.

The Parish Council's solicitor had replied to this, stating it would be appreciated that this dispute had got to be settled not only with the present rector but also with regard to any future rector. That was why it was suggested that the matter should be agreed by not only the rector, but also by the Parochial Church Council and the Bishop.

The Parish Council then decided that these comments should be put forward at the present stage: The rector's indisposition was regretted and it was hoped that his progress would permit of an early decision on the proposals.

RIGHT OF WAY

As the proposals covered reinstatement to its original state by the rector—removal of the top soil deposited on it—of the public footpath across the "green," this operation might be conveniently extended to include the vehicular right of way for owners and occupiers of certain fields round the brookside.

The council felt that a plan and specification of the "green" would not appear to be necessary, as the lay-out of the "green" existent before the bulldozing operations, is quite adequately shown on the public Ordnance Surveyplan.

LEGAL VIEWS ON COLTON BURIAL GROUND GRIEVANCE

TIMES 18/2/61

COLTON Parish Council at their meeting on Thursday of last week discussed the latest development in the burial ground controversy, the reply received to their proposals from Mr. Michael Exham, legal adviser to the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson.

The clerk, Mr. S. J. Timmins, informed the council that Mr. Exham made the point that the planting of shrubs and possibly the placing of seats on the green should be subject to the rector's approval. He did not think there was need for any other body to be contacted at this stage. Furthermore, if future differences and disputes were to be avoided, it seemed essential that a proper plan and specification should be prepared.

He asked the Parish Council to have such plans prepared and to submit them for the rector's approval. He expected that the rector would in due course submit the properly formulated proposals to the Parochial Church Council.

Mr. Exham's letter concluded with the statement that he could not see that the bishop was in any way concerned with the matters under discussion.

"Must be settled"

Mr. Timmins said the Parish Council's solicitors had replied to the latter point, stating that this dispute had to be settled not only with the present rector but also with regard to any future rector. For that reason it was suggested that the matter should be agreed, not only by the rector but also by the bishop and the P.C.C.

The Parish Council decided that as the proposals covered the reinstatement of the public footpath across the green, this operation might be conveniently extended to include the vehicular right-of-way for the owners and occupiers of certain fields round the brookside. The vehicular way runs over the same route on the green as the public footpath.

The council felt that a plan of the green was not necessary. The layout as it existed before bulldozing was adequately shown on the public Ordnance Survey plan.

They felt that their proposal to plant shrubs and possibly place seats there hardly called for their requiring the approval of the rector.

It was pointed out that several parish councillors were also P.C.C. members and the Parish Council were not likely to do anything out of favour with the village community and the church.

It was considered desirable to keep the P.C.C. acquainted with any developments as the latter's recent efforts to secure a further meeting with the rector had not been fruitful.

Historian addresses Colton W.I.

Mr. E. C. Toye, history master at Rugeley Grammar School, was welcomed as the speaker at the February meeting of Colton Women's Institute, held in the Reading Room. Mrs. I. Preston presided.

Mr. Toye's subject was local history, and he spoke at length on the history of Colton, reading passages from the book on the subject, written by a former rector, the Rev. F. P. Parker. Some of the members who possess copies of this book were especially interested in what Mr. Toye had to say by way of explanation.

Questions were invited, and a vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, and seconded by Mrs. M. L. Waters.

During the business part of the meeting, ideas for the year's programme were invited, the County Letter was read, classes in the ladies' section of the show were discussed, and members were reminded that the March meeting would be the annual meeting.

A word-building competition from the words "Home and Country" was won by Mrs. H. Jones. Prizewinners in the competition for a bowl of bulbs were Mrs. H. Williscroft (hyacinths), and Mrs. H. M. Felton (daffodils and tulips).

The mystery prize was won by Mrs. Deacon.

COLTON PUPILS ATTEND SERVICE

On Ash Wednesday the pupils of Colton St. Mary's School attended a service in St. Mary's Church. The service was conducted by the Rev. D. A. Guthrie, of Rugeley, and the lesson was read by Mr. E. Waters (headmaster). Mrs. Shaw was the organist.

Colton Shrove Tuesday party

When members of Colton Mothers' Union held their Shrove Tuesday party they were welcomed by Mrs. J. L. Taylor, the enrolling member and the programme included whist and beetle drives. Mr. F. Norman and Miss D. M. Jones were the M.C.s.

Whist winners were: Mrs. D. Deacon, Mrs. G. Jones, Mrs. I. James and Mr. B. Bettson. The longest sitters were Mr. F. Norman and Mrs. Westhorpe.

Beetle drive winners were: Miss R. B. Ravenscroft, Mrs. V. M. Towlson and Mr. K. Williscroft.

Mr. J. A. Best entertained with a film show commencing with the Village Produce Guild film taken by Mr. S. J. Timmins. He was thanked by Mrs. Ravenscroft.

Valentine gifts were given to Mrs. E. M. Challinor, Mr. Best and Mr. F. Norman on behalf of the guests, Miss Jones thanked the M. U. members for the hospitality.

Siting of Colton bus shelter

Colton Parish Council, at the meeting on Thursday of last week decided to recommend to Lichfield Rural Council the suitability of a strip of verge between the Heath way letter-box and Brown's Rd as a site for a bus shelter. The council had been informed that a timber shelter would be erected in the village during the current year.

Mr. F. Hardcastle called attention to older schoolchildren having to wait in the open on wet mornings, outside Colton School, for the arrival of the bus to convey them to Hixon Secondary School.

Members suggested that the problem might be solved by the erection of a bus shelter in the Pinfold, and the clerk was asked to put forward this idea to the Education Committee, and inquire if the authority would consider making a contribution towards the provision of such a shelter.

It was also decided to ask the Education Committee to extend the school bus service so that children could board it at the Pinfold.

Attention was called to the bad state of footpaths near Bellamour Corner and near the school, and the clerk was instructed to write the County Roads and Bridges Department to repair them.

The line of the public footpath leading from the Pinfold to Rugeway Cottages having been almost obliterated by the recent erection of an electricity pylon, it was decided that Mr. R. Morrall should draw the atention of the Midland Electricty Board to this and request that the path be restored on completion of the work.

It was decided, on the proposition of Mr. Morrall, that he County Roads and Bridges Department should be urged to improve visibility at the point of the second bend on the hill in Blithbury Road.

Colton. — The February meeting was held in the Reading Room, Mrs. I. Preston (President) presiding. Mr. E. C. Toye, History Master of Rugeley Grammar School, gave an interesting talk on local history, saying that the church is the usual starting point in local history. He had with him a copy of a book written by the Rev. F. P. Parker (a former Rector of Colton) and read items from it. Mr. Toye was thanked on the proposition of Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft seconded by Mrs. M. L. Waters. A word-building competition from the words 'Home and Country' was won by Mrs. N. Jones. Prizes for bowls of bulbs were won by Mrs. H. Williscroft (hyacinths) and Mrs. H. M. Felton (daffodils and tulips). Tea hostesses were Mrs. L. Bettson and Mrs. D. Deacon. The stall was in charge of Mrs. Waters and the mystery prize went to Mrs. Deacon.

COLTON 17/2/61

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COLTON HELP FOR PRODUCE GUILD AT DENSTONE

ADVERTISER 2/3/61

Colton Village Produce Guild have once more given their help in the formation of another guild; this time at Denstone, the holder of the trophy for the best-kept village.

Some 17 members made the journey to Denstone last Thursday. A good gathering of local people turned up and heard Mr. D. M. Gibb, the county secretary, explain the aims and objects of the guilds.

The county chairman, Mr. F. W. Farrer, was unable to attend owing to domestic reasons. Mrs. M. S. Toy gave a very good talk during which she gave a survey of all that the Colton Guild has achieved in the four years since its formation.

Mr Jack Brown alo had a few words to say; so did Mr. J. H. Toy. Colton films were next shown by Mr. S. J. Timmins, and the Denstone people enjoyed seeing the Colton members at work laying the lawns at Oldhams Cottages and the rustic

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21/4/61 **COLTON**

PARISH COUNCIL. — Colton Parish Council, at their meeting last week instructed the Clerk to write to the Rector (the Rev. A. S. Towlson), as Chairman of the Trustees of the local Reading Room, to call a meeting of this body — they have met only once in the past four years — before the end of April, and that if this is not done, the rest of the Trustees arrange a meeting. — Regarding the burial ground scheme, it was proposed by Mr. Bettson, seconded by Mr. Morrall, that the Parish Council still maintain their objection to various matters in connection with this scheme as long as matters stand as they seem at present. There is to be the joint meeting between the P.C.C. and the Parish Council in the near future to discuss this scheme.

MOTHERS' UNION. — At the well-attended April meeting of Colton Mothers'

COLTON

Produce Guild.—These members of Colton Village Produce Guild who attended the county bulb show at Tittensor Village Hall and arranged by the County Federation of Village Produce Guilds, enjoyed their afternoon immensely, to see the mass of lovely blooms alone was well worth the journey.

The County Chairman, Mr. F. W. Farrer, presided. During the judging by Mr. T. N. Armstrong, parks superintendent, Wolverhampton, and Mr. P. W. C. Davies, parks superintendent, Newcastle-under-Lyme, two films were shown: the bulb fields of Holland and the tulip fields at Spalding, views in Wales, and events at the Maer show.

Mr. Farrer thanked Mr. Lewis and Mr. Cooke for showing the films. After tea and biscuits came the announcement of the results in the show.

Mr. Davies said that he and Mr. Armstrong had a difficult task in judging the wonderful display of bulbs.

Professor Alan R. Gemmell of the University College of North Staffordshire, Keele Hall, next gave a witty talk, followed by his presentation of prizes to the winners. The most points, which received a dainty brass chairman's bell, was won by the Ashley Guild.

Colton were winners in the following classes: White hyacinths, 2nd, Miss D. M. Jones; blue hyacinths, highly commended, 1 point, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh McConkey, and daffodils, 3rd, Mrs. M. S. Toy.

Colton had the same number of points as two guilds with three times their membership and many more entries in the show. Mr. Farrer extended thanks to the judges, Professor Gemmell, and to the Tittensor Guild, and Mr. D. M. Gibb, County Secretary, proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Farrer for all the trouble he had put into the event, and for the help and encouragement he gives to the Guilds at all times.

The Colton members who attended were Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Toy, Miss D. M Jones, Mrs. H. M. Felton, Mr. and Mrs. T. Preston, and Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft. These county get-togethers are always enjoyed due to the spirit which exists in the Guilds. It gave pleasure that Mrs. Jessie Hillier (County Secretary for so long) was able to join them at the bulb show. It was announced that the county dinner had been postponed and it is hoped to hold this later in the year at a more central place.

COLTON

Produce Guild.—The March meeting of the Colton Village Produce Guild took place in the Reading Room on March 2nd, and was the annual general meeting, the chairman Mr J. R. Toy, presiding. After the minutes of the February meeting had been read and confirmed, Mr Toy reviewed the various activities of the past year, and extended thanks to Miss Jones, Mr Felton, and Mrs Ravenscroft for help they had given, and to members for their support. Miss Jones then presented the committee's report for the year. Mr B. Jackson moved the adoption of this report.

Mr Felton's statement of the financial situation was presented by Mr Brundle the adoption of this was moved by Mrs I. Preston. Members having been presented with ballot papers on their arrival, these papers were next collected and the tellers, Mr H. D. Pollard and Mr F. G. Ballard, retired to another room to count the votes, and Mr Toy introduced Major O'Neill of Blithfield who gave a very interesting talk on Gibraltar, also inviting questions.

A vote of thanks to Major O'Neill was proposed by Mrs Timmins. Election results were then announced, the new committee being Mr G. E. D. Atkin, senr., Mr Jack Brown, Mr R. A. Brundle, Mr A. N. Felton, Miss D. M. Jones, Mr J. F. Peet, Mr T. Preston Mrs B. M. Ravenscroft, Mrs D. Timmins, and Mr J. H. Toy.

Members elected Mr Toy their chairman, and the rest of the officers will be decided at committee meeting to take place the following week Mr Toy extended thanks to the tellers.

Mr S. J. Timmins announced that the produce guild have entered a team of three, namely chairman, speaker and proposer of vote of thanks, in a public speaking contest arranged by the Rural Community Council.

Those who have agreed to represent the Guild are, Mr Brundle (chairman) Mrs M. S. Toy (speaker) and Mr Timmins (proposer of thanks) Tea hostesses were Mrs C M. Amyes and Mrs Joan Gadwood, assisted by Michael Garwood.

ADVERTISER 23/3/61 COLTON

Produce Guild.—About 20 members of Colton Village Guild made the journey to Shareshill on March 16 and gave their help and support in the formation of a Produce Guild there. The County chairman, Mr F. W. Farrer, enlightened the local people on the aims and objects of the Village Produce Guilds Association, and the benefits to be obtained from the formation of an affiliated guild, he added that two of the best programmes he had heard on the "Gardeners' Question Time," were recorded at Village Produce Guilds in Staffordshire namely Colton in January 1960, and Maer in December last. Mr D. M. Gibb County Secretary, also made a few remarks. Mrs M. S. Toy addressed the meeting in her usual capable manner, telling how Colton Guild started four years since with only nine members, and the rapid growth in membership also telling of the various activities covered in that time.

Mr J. H. Toy stressed the value of Press reports. Mr Farrer also supported that adding that one sometimes found their photograph in local news in the paper. Mr S. J. Timmins gave a film show of the Colton members at their various activities, this was much enjoyed as was his commentary during the films.

Mr Farrer extended thanks to Mr Timmins, also to all the Colton members for supporting the meeting, and to the Shareshill people for making the necessary arrangements and for the welcome cup of tea they provided.

The 'Green' at Colton

Further Parish Council comment

Further discussion respecting the "green" between the entrance to the church drive and the brook bridge arising out of the recent burial ground controversy with the Rector of St. Mary's Church, Colton, (the Rev. A. S. Towlson), took up part of a meeting of Colton Parish Council, held on Thursday last week.

After a letter had been read from Mr. M. Exham (acting as legal adviser to the Rector in this matter), the Parish Council decided to offer the following comments:

That as the proposals covered the reinstatement (by the Rector) to its original state of the public footpath across the "green," this operation might be conveniently extended to include the vehicular right of way for the owners and occupiers of certain fields round the brookside, which vehicular way runs over the same route on the "green" as the public footpath.

The Parish Council feel that a plan and specification of the "green" would not appear to be necessary, as the layout of the "green," as it existed prior to the bull-dozing operations, is quite adequately shown on the public Ordnance Survey.

It was felt that the Parish Council's proposal to have shrubs planted (and a possible seat or seats fixed) on the "green" hardly called for their requiring the approval of the Rector.

It was also pointed out in this connection that several members of the Parish Council were also Parochial Church Councillors and that the Parish Council were not likely to do anything out of favour with the village community and the church.

Colton. — Mrs. I. Preston (President), presided at the annual meeting and the Secretary (Mrs. P. M. Buckley), gave her report. Mrs. P. L. Bannister (Treasurer), presented the financial statement. The President thanked the officials and expressed regret at the resignation of Mrs. Bannister from the committee. As there were 12 names for 11 places on the committee Mrs. Preston suggested that all should be elected. This was adopted on the proposal of Mrs. Tooley, seconded by Mrs. D. Deacon. Mrs. Preston was re-elected as President, Mrs Buckley as Secretary, Mrs. Brown as Treasurer, Mrs. E. M. Sargeant as Assistant Treasurer. Mrs. M. S. Toy and Mrs. N. Jones were elected Vice-Presidents and committee members elected were Mrs. D. M. Atkin, Miss Jones, Mrs. Ravenscroft, Miss Ellen Rotchell, Mrs. J. L. Taylor, and Mrs. M. L. Waters. Tea hostesses were Mrs. M. Felton and Mrs.

Colton Parish Council

FURTHER DISCUSSIO ON "THE GREEN"

FURTHER discussion resp ing the "green" betw the entrance to the church di and the brook bridge arising of the recent burial grou controversy with the Rector St. Mary's Church, Colton, to up part of a meeting of Colt Parish Council held in the No Room at the School on Thu lay last week.

The Clerk (Mr. S. J. Timmin reported that the Parish Cou cil's proposals for dealing wit the "green" were submitted b the Parish Council's solicitors t Mr. Michael Exham, of Lichfiel (who was acting as legal adviser to the Rector (the Rev. A. S. Towlson).

A reply from Mr. Exham referred to the Rector's indisposition consequent upon a recent operation, and explained that for the time being he was not able to obtain his client's instructions. In the meantime, however, Mr. Exham made certain observations on the proposals some of which had already been dealt with by the Parish Council's solicitors, by way of clarification and re-explanation of several of the proposals and of the correct position as regards certain facts.

Mr. Exham in addition made the point that the planting of shrubs (and possible placing of seats) be subject to the Rector's approval.

Further, the letter stated he did not think there was any need for any other body to be contacted at this stage. He also put forward the view that if future differences and disputes were to be avoided it seemed to him quite essential to have a proper plan and specification prepared and that he understood this was what the Parish Council's representatives had in mind at the recent discussion on the site.

IN DUE COURSE

He expected the Rector would submit the properly formulated proposals with plans and specifications to the Parochial Church Council in due course.

In conclusion, Mr. Exham said he could not see that the Bishop was in any way concerned in the matters under discussion. The Parish Council's solicitors had replied to this latter point by stating that it would be appreciated of course that this dispute had got to be settled not only with the present Rector but also with regard to any future Rectors and that was why it was suggested that the matter should be agreed by not only the Rector but also by the Parochial Church Council and the Bishop.

The Parish Council decided that the following comments should be put forward at this stage:— (a) The Rector's indisposition was regretted and it was hoped that his progress would permit of an early decision on the proposals; (b) As the proposals covered the reinstatement to its original state by the Rector (by removal of the top soil deposited on it) of the public footpath across the 'green' this operation might be conveniently extended to include the vehicular right of way for the owners and occupiers of certain fields round the brookside which vehicular way runs over the same route on the 'green' as the public footpath;

(c) The Parish Council felt that a plan and specification of the 'green' would not appear to be necessary, as the 'layout' of the 'green' as it existed prior to the bulldozing operations is quite adequately shown on the public Ordnance Survey Plan.

It was felt that the Parish

Lights damaged by catapults (and many other topics) discussed at Colton parish meeting

COMPLAINTS from residents in Colton and the Midlands Electricity Board concerning the destruction of the bulbs in street lamps by airguns and/or catapults were referred to at the annual Colton parish meeting on Monday last week.

The complaints had been made to the chairman of Colton Parish Council, Mr. F. Hardcastle and to another parish councillor, Mr. L. Mellor, but although the matter was serious enough to warrant police attention it was decided, in the first instance to approach the parents of the boys concerned.

This had been done, it was hoped with good effect, and an appeal had been made to parents in general to bring the matter to the notice of their children with the object of discouraging any tendency there might be for conduct of this nature.

Sanction was sought of the Parish Assembly for the Parish Council to exceed the 4d. rate limit up to the 8d. ceiling if necessary, during the year 1961/62. This was given.

It was decided that the village be again entered for the Best-kept Village Competition organised by Staffordshire Rural Community Council. In this connection it was agreed that the Parish Council after taking the initiative in entering the village in the competition, should co-operate with other bodies in the parish, in preparing for the competition.

Mrs. Toy asked if the Parish Council would agree to flowers being planted round the War Memorial in the Pinfold and Mr. Maurice B. Williscroft drew attention to repairs required at the War Memorial. Both felt that these matters would increase the prospects of the village in the competition. The Parish Council decided that they would ask the Produce Guild to plant flowers to meet this request, the Parish Council to defray any expenses which might be incurred. Respecting Mr. Williscroft's point, it was pointed out that the Parish Council had some time since arranged for repairs to be carried out at the War Memorial, and it was hoped these would be done prior to judging for the competition in July.

NO OBSTRUCTION

Messrs. G. Cooper (late of The Dairy Farm, Blithfield, but now of Rydal Farm, near Rugeley), A. I. D. Collins and Walter A. Norman felt that the kerbing which Rev. A. S. Towlson had had done from the brook bridge round to the Rectory yard gateway created no obstruction to the public footpath crossing over the "green" and round the brookside.

They also claimed there was very little obstruction or inconvenience from the kerbing to agricultural vehicles and implements in obtaining access across the "green" and down the brook course to certain fields round the brookside. Mr. Mellor, however, raised the question of responsibility, if the kerbing was allowed to remain as it had been laid, for damage to the kerbing, which might be caused by agricultural traffic.

Mrs. D. Timmis enquired how [illegible] to be before 3

school motor coach proceeding from Admaston in mornings (Mondays to Fridays) diverting its route so that instead of running round Bellamour and over the brook bridge to its starting point at Colton School as at present, it would turn off along Moor Lane, through Stockwell Heath to Heathway, and down the village, collecting the children near their homes on route.

Mrs. Margaret S. Toy remarked that if this idea was established she thought it should be extended to include the "under-elevens" also. Others stated however, that from the point of view of safety they believed it was the usual practice not to collect or set down children at points other than officially recognised places. Eventually it was decided to leave it to the Clerk to seek the views of the County Education Department on the suggestion and questions put forward.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

At the Parish Council meeting which followed a decision was made to ask the solicitors acting on behalf of the Parish Council to press the Rector's legal adviser for a reply to the Parish Council's proposals in regard to the "green."

A reply from the County Roads and Bridges Department stated that the necessary repairs would be effected to the worn-out surface of the footpath (caused by flooding) along the side of the highway between Bellamour Corner and the brook bridge near the church, and to the footpath adjoining the highway within the vicinity of the school.

At the last meeting Mr. Morrall had said that, proceeding from the brook bridge near the small factory close to his farm at Trent Valley towards Blithbury, there was first of all a bend to the left in the highway and part way up the hill a bend to the right. He had described this last mentioned point as a danger to road users in general, particularly people emerging from the gateways of two houses standing up on the bank. It had been agreed that the County Roads and Bridges Department be urged to effect a road improvement at this bend and the Clerk read a letter from the Acting Area Surveyor at Lichfield. This letter agreed that the bend was dangerous and some improvement should be made.

It was pointed out in the letter, however, that the adjacent field and gardens were at a higher level than the carriageway and any improvement made would involve considerable expenditure. Such improvements were subject to Ministry of Transport approval after they had been agreed to by the Roads and Bridges Committee of the County Council and the amount of money available for such claims was very limited.

He stated he had written to the County Surveyor requesting that n improvement should be carried ut at the point referred to.

30, BORE STREET LICHF
SURVEYOR &
CHARTERED AUCTIONEE
GEORGE ROB

COLTON

The March meeting of the Colton Women's Institute held in the Reading Room was the annual general meeting and was fairly well attended by members, also by three visitors. The president, Mrs. I. Preston, presided. After the minutes had been read and confirmed. the secretary, Mrs. P. M. Buckley gave her report of the years work.

Thanks to her were proposed by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, seconded by Mrs. I. R. Brown. Mrs. P. L. Bannister, treasurer next presented her financial statement the adoption of which was moved, and a vote of thanks proposed by Mrs. M. S. Toy seconded by Miss. D. M. Jones. The president extended thanks to Mrs Buckley and Mrs. Bannister for their work, and expressed regret that Mrs Bannister felt obliged to resign from the committee.

Mrs. Preston next announced that there were twelve names down on the election list for the eleven places and she felt that it would be unfair that just the one member would not get on the committee, her idea being that to avoid this it would be best to accept the lot as being on the new committe. a proposal that this be done was made by Mrs Tooley, seconded by Mrs. D. Deacon.

Mrs Preston was again elected president. Mrs. Buckley secretary Mrs. Brown treasurer, Mrs. E. M. Sargeant, assistant treasurer. Is vice-president, Mrs. M. S. Toy and 2nd vice-president, Mrs. N. Jones the rest of the committee are Mrs. D. M. Atkin, Miss. Jones, Mrs. Ravenscroft, Miss. Ellen Rotchell Mrs. J. L. Taylor and Mrs. M. L. Waters. The tellers were Mr. Maurice Williscroft and Mr. R. H. Bannister, they were thanked by Mrs. Taylor, seconded by Mrs Waters.

Arrangements were made regarding the Parkside Group meeting at Blithfield on March 27th. It was decided to hold the rummage sale for show funds on April 8th., the being arranged jointly with the Produce Guild.

A visit is planned to Elkes, Dove Valley Bakeries in the summer and it is hoped to stage 'The Flower Shop Window' exhibit at The County Show. Tea hostesses were Mrs. F. M. Felton, and Mrs. Jones, the stall was in charge of Mrs. Tooley, and the mystery prize went to Mr Sanders A game of Bingo was enjoyed those gaining small prizes being Mrs. Toy, Mr. Williscroft Mrs. Ravenscroft and Mrs. J. Norman.

COLTON VILLAGE PRODUCE GUILD

14/4/61

There was a record attendance at the Village Produce Guild April meeting held in the Reading Room, on Thursday last with Mr. J. H. Toy presiding when the proposed outing to Gardens on June 25 was discussed.

Names were taken of members wishing to attend the County Rally at Hednett Hall on April 29. Mr. R. A. Brundle (Representative on the County Executive Committee) gave details of County events, it having been decided not to stage exhibits at the County Show this year, but instead to do so at the Food Production Rally at Rodbaston Farm Institute in June.

Colton having been asked to be responsible for the arrangements, and a Committee was formed, Colton members who agreed to serve being Mr. Brundle, Mrs. M. S. Toy, Mrs. D. Timmins and Mr. A. Meddings.

Following business, the company enjoyed a film show by Mr. S. J. Timmins.

The competition for "An Arrangement of Spring Flowers," was judged by Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. G. Mellor, who awarded prizes to Mrs. D. Timmins, Mrs. M. S. Toy, Mrs. I Preston and Mrs. E. H. Tabernor. The chairman thanked the judges. Tea hostesses were Miss D. M. Jones, Mrs. M. E. Hibbs. Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft and Gwendoline Ravenscroft.

THEIR GOOD DEED.—The recent house-to-house collection in the Colton area for Dr. Barnardo's Homes, organised by Mrs. J. L. Taylor, resulted in £6 being sent to headquarters. The collectors were Miss Ellen Rotchell, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, Mrs. M. L. Waters and Mrs. J. E. Norman. This is regarded as a Women's Institute "Good deed."

A JUMBLE SALE and bring-and-buy sale, held in the Reading Room, Colton, on Saturday was organised by the Women's Institute and the Village Produce Guild for show funds and raised about £20. Helpers were: Mr. G. E. Atkin, sen., Mrs. I. Preston, Mrs. D. Timmins, Miss D. M. Jones, Mrs. M. Jones, Mrs. A. Meddings, Mrs. P. M. Buckley, Mrs. P. Bannister, Mrs. D. Deacon and Miss E. Rotchell. Refreshments were served by Mrs. E. M. Sargent, Mrs. M. Felton, Mrs. M. S. Toy and Mrs. E. Atkin. A competition for two chickens, organised by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft assisted by Misses Ruth and Gwendoline Ravenscroft, was won by Mrs. Toy and Mrs. Olive G. Upton.

COLTON

PRODUCE GUILD was a record attendance at the Colton Produce Guild meeting held in the Reading Room, Mr. J. H. Toy presiding. It has been decided to stage exhibits at the Food Production Rally at Rodbaston in June instead of at the County Show. A committee was formed for this purpose and members from Abbots Bromley and Colwich are to be asked to appoint representatives to serve on this committee. Colton members appointed were Mr. Brundle, Mrs. M. S. Toy, Mrs. D. Timmis and Mr. A. Meddings. Afterwards, members saw a film show. The films included scenes in Persia shown by Mrs. J. L. Taylor, whose daughter resides there. Mrs. Taylor made a running commentary, and was thanked by Mr. Percy Tabenor. Mr. Timmins showed films on various pests and diseases, and was thanked by Mrs. Ivy Preston. The competition for an arrangement of spring flowers was judged by Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. G. Mellor, who awarded prizes to Mrs. D. Timmins, Mrs. M. S. Toy, Mrs. I. Preston and Mrs. E. H. Tabernor. Tea hostesses were Miss D. M. Jones, Mrs. M. E. Hibbs, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft and Gwendoline Ravenscroft.

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Church officers at Colton

Although the procedure allowed for 27 seats, not more than 20 people were nominated for the Parochial Church Council at the exceptionally well attended annual meeting of St. Mary's Church, Colton.

All 20 were declared elected. They were: Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Bettson, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Best, Mr. B. Maurice Williscroft, Mrs. J. L. Taylor, Mr. Luke Mellor, Mr. D. E. Waters, Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Felton, Mrs. V. M. Towlson, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, Mr. Joseph Tittensor, Mr. C. M. Boycott, Mr. F. H. Cooper, Miss D. A. Cooper, Mr. R. W. Parr, Mr. and Mrs. A. I. D. Collins and Mr. W. A. Norman.

It was decided that as from and including 1962, the Parochial Council consist of 15 members (including ex-officio members).

The Rector (the Rev. A. S. Towlson) announced that he had elected Mr. J. Tittensor as his Warden and Mr. D. E. Waters as deputy Rector's Warden. Mr. B. M. Williscroft was re-elected People's Warden and Mr. Norman as deputy People's Warden. Sidesmen elected are Messrs. Bettson, Felton, Mellor, Parr, F. S. Knight, jun., Boycott and Collins.

The Rector extended thanks to Mr. Bernard Bettson, who had been Rector's Warden for 25 years, and an active church worker for almost 32 years.

Colton annual assembly and Parish Council News

SEWAGE RUNS DOWN STREETS – VILLAGER

MEMBERS of the public expressed concern about the poor sewerage system in the village, particularly now that new houses are going up, but a proposition by Mr. J. Peet that an action committee be set up to restrain development till the system was improved was not seconded.

One woman said she had seen sewage "running down the village streets," and asked when an adequate system would be provided. Councillor R. Morrall, who is also a Lichfield Rural District Councillor said work would be started on a new system in 1962.

Mr. Peet said he did not want the streets of Colton looking like "an open medieval sewer." He commented houses before sewers was "putting the cart before the horse."

Councillor L. Mellor pointed out that those who move into the new houses will help pay for the new system. He said that whenever there was a burst in the present system it was quickly repaired.

EARLY BUS REQUEST

As a result of discussion which took place at the annual assembly, the parish council is to write to the Green Bus Company, Rugeley. It is felt that withdrawal of the early morning bus from Colton to Rugeley, which was only recently added, would be detrimental to the village. They ask for its reinstatement.

A request is also being made for departure time to be brought forward 15 minutes to 8.40 a.m., a change which the meeting felt would increase numbers using the bus.

Vandalism has been curbed

CHAIRMAN of the parish council, Councillor F. Hardcastle, made an appeal to villagers: "Will you please use public footpaths as little as possible while foot-and-mouth disease is in the area?" he asked, and reminded hearers that the disease could be brought into Colton.

Mr. Hardcastle followed with another appeal, this time to parents. He stated that it had been necessary recently to interview people regarding the conduct of their children in smashing light bulbs and globes with air guns and catapults.

Interviews were held in preference to calling in the police, and since they had taken place, vandalism had ceased. He appealed to parents to impress upon their children the seriousness of this type of vandalism.

Memorial clean-up

Question of tidying Colton War Memorial was raised and Mr. F. Hardcastle gave an assurance that it would be done before the judging of the "Best-kept Village" competition.

Lively exchanges over the right of way

LIVELY exchanges took place at Colton Annual Assembly last week, when one of 16 members of the public who attended, raised the vexed question of the right of way at Brookside, Colton, which the parish council claims has been obstructed by work ordered by the rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, in connection with improvement of the road leading to Colton Church.

Clerk to the parish council, Mr. S. J. Timmins, said that correspondence had passed between the legal parties and the Rector's representatives had continually asked about trivial details. The council's last letter stated that they felt the matter should have been settled long ago.

Mr. Cooper said that in his opinion, the matter concerned individuals who used the right of way to get to agricultural land beyond the brook. Mr. Timmins said that a public footpath was involved, making it the concern of the parish council.

Mr. W. A. Norman maintained that the Rector's work had not blocked a right of way. Agricultural vehicles could easily get by, despite a kerb erected at the instigation of the Rector.

OBSTRUCTING

Councillor F. Hardcastle, council chairman, said that the Rector is obstructing by kerbing the road, and pointed out that the area is an open space. "The Rector is willing to remove the kerb and put in a right of way, but so far there has been no action," he added

After further discussion came this comment from a voice in the room: "If we still had the old Rector, we would still be in the same rut." Came the response: "It was a good rut."

Councillor A. N. Felton pointed out that the kerb was not in the original scheme, and the cost had at first been estimated at £50. It was now in the region of £600.

Mr. Norman said a good job had been done. He went on to state that he felt the parish council was a good and active body whose efforts were spoiled by "the big wigs."

Mr. J. Peet said that many people did not realise that the Rector's scheme for modernising the village alms houses had been helped greatly by the Parish Lands Trust. It had given £500 for the scheme, and £50 for church wall repair.

In the parish council meeting which followed, it was decided to instruct the council's solicitors to ask the Rector's representatives for an immediate reply to their last letter.

without pay for two years, claim

INHABITANTS of Colton had a shock when the chairman of the parish council, Mr. F. Hardcastle, told them them that the caretaker of the Reading Room, where the meeting was held, had not been paid his salary, £1 2s. per quarter, for two years.

He moved that the trustees, who were all present with exception of the Rector, Rev. A. S. Towlson (chairman) should, if the Rector did not summon a meeting shortly, call one themselves to discuss the matter.

The Rector, said Mr. Hardcastle, had called one meeting but did not turn up. He added that the trustees had asked time after time for the archives which outlined their powers, but the Rector had not supplied them.

He went on to say that he had continually pressed for a meeting, and the Clerk to the Parish Council had written making a similar request. "The trustees used to meet regularly, but in the last four years things seem to have gone haywire," he added. The motion was carried.

"Best kept Village" entry decision

It was decided to enter the "Best-kept Village" competition and in the parish council meeting which followed the council agreed to pay for planting of flowers at the War Memorial after a suggestion by Mrs. M. S. Toy. Last year, the village reached the last six, and Mrs. Toy pointed out that the total amount spent by the council was 10s.

Kept in trim for 40 years

In 1921, Colton Parish Council bought a lawn mower. Now they have decided to buy another in view of its deterioration. The mower is used mainly to keep grass in trim round the War Memorial.

Danger bend is causing concern

Colton Parish Council has written to the County Council asking for improvements to Blithbury Road on a dangerous bend near Trent Valley. An assurance has been received that a footpath from Colton School to Bellamour which was damaged by flooding is to be repaired.

The council decided to write to the Central Electricity Authority asking if they can rectify damage caused to a footpath running parallel with the Rugeley-Colton road by erection of a pylon nearby.

Speed limit urged

Concern was expressed about speeding through the village and as a result the Parish Council is to press for a 30 m.p.h. speed limit in the area.

Mr. J. Peet said that even heavy lorries sometimes went through Colton at speeds up to 50 m.p.h.

Councillor F. Hardcastle said that an unsuccessful application for

Bus shelter site complaint

Colton Parish Council received a letter from a resident, Mr. Jack Brown, pointing out the danger and inconvenience of a bus shelter site near the junction of High Street and Heathway, Colton. The council has agreed with his views, and Councillor Morris has undertaken to raise the matter at Lichfield Rural Council.

Parochial charities meeting delayed

Colton Parochial Charities accounts

More than £67 was contributed to the Colton Church Road Fund on Lady Day, which the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, set aside, being the patronal feast, as a gift day. This sum included 50 dollars from Mrs. R. Upton (née Elizabeth Yates) who left the village 50 years ago.

Will not be subject to ridicule and darts of the Press – Colton Rector

ALL I GET AT CHURCH IS A COLLECTION AND OUT AGAIN, SAYS PARISHIONER

SERVICE "A GABBLE"

REV. A. S. TOWLSON told hearers at Colton Parochial Church Council annual meeting that he was willing to co-operate, but would "no longer fight the whole parish single-handed, and no longer be subject to ridicule and the darts of the Press."

He apologised for unintentional offence to anyone, and was only too willing to "lay the bogy of lack of co-operation."

Lively exchanges and forthright criticism set the tone of the annual vestry meeting which preceded the P.C.C. gathering.

The Rector had earlier sent out a circular stating that a new rector's churchwarden was to be appointed in place of Mr. B. Betson who had served 25 years. Successor was Mr. Joseph Tittensor.

"DIFFERENCES OF OPINION"

Mr. Towlson thanked helpers for assistance during the year, particularly Mr. Betson, who said there had been differences of opinion, but the Rector was master.

Mr. D. E. Waters was appointed deputy Rector's warden; Mr. M. Williscroft, people's warden; Mr. W. Norman, his deputy; sidesman, Messrs. C. Boycott, I. Collins, F. S. Knight junior, R. W. Parr, R. Betson, A. N. Felton, L. Mellor.

Mr. E. S. Bloor refused nomination, stating that after 70 years' interest in Colton Church, he had "lost all confidence in the Rector." He went on: "I come to church and what do I get? A collection and out again."

He claimed that half the people did not understand the Communion service, which was "gabbled." Barbecues held for fund raising in the Rectory grounds were also under fire, and Mr. Bloor wondered what had happened to the Sunday school.

At the Parochial Church Council meeting, the following were elected: B. Betson, M. Williscroft, Mrs. J. L. Taylor, J. A. Best, Mrs. Betson, L. Mellor, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, Mrs. Best, Mr. Walters, Mr. Norman, Mr. and Mrs. Collins, Mr. and Mrs. Felton, Mr. C. Boycott, Mrs. Towlson, R. Parr, Miss D. Cooper, F. Cooper.

£220 RAISED

Next year the P.C.C. will consist of eight elected members and seven ex-officio.

The Rector said that £220 had been raised for the church road improvement scheme and there were still three months before the contractors' credit expired.

In the subsequent general discussion, Mr. Luke Mellor asked the Rector to give a reason for Mr. Betson's dismissal. He was reminded that Mr. Beston can be re-chosen next year. The Rector felt it was time a new voice was heard in that office.

Whereupon Mr. Mellor commented: "It is an insult to Mr. Betson and the community."

Mr. Towlson added: "Are going to finish extending the bur ground or not?" He said that b weather had held up work.

CO-OPERATION APPEAL

After Mr. F. Cooper had pealed for villagers to work toget with the Rector, some members the public declared that a secc road to church and rectory unnecessary. Mr. Betson felt t the burial ground could have be extended without the big scher

Mr. Towlson said that if the p ish council withdrew objections the scheme, it should be possi to sell a strip of land alongs the Colton main street for Staffo shire County Council's future ro widening plans.

Mr. F. Hardcastle, chairman the Parish Council, asked the R tor if he had drawn up plans the scheme and submitted them County Council planning permiss before the P.C.C. had been aw of the scheme.

The Rector replied that he so in the absence of others.

"LOST SUPPORT"

Mr. G. Upton told the Rect "The day those bulldozers rol into the village, you lost the s port of 75 per cent of the inha tants, and you will have to w harder than ever before to reg it."

Mr. Towlson said he would finitely attend a joint meeting Colton Parish Council and the ochial Church Council on Fric April 14, to iron out difficul

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COLTON 2/6/61

The April meeting of the Colton Women's Institute was held in the Reading Room. The president, Mrs. I. Preston, presiding, and introducing Mr. C. Barham of Rugeley, who gave a talk on cameras and photography, and inviting questions.

He was thanked on behalf of members by Mrs. Preston and Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft. Mr. Barham judged the competitions which were won by Mrs. Tooley with "My oldest photograph" and Mrs. C. M. Amyes with a saucer of cress.

Business matters included the reading and confirming of the March meeting minutes, and the reading of the County Letter. A discussion took place on the County Show exhibit and it was thought it might be best to have a special meeting to settle details later on. Mrs. Preston welcomed two new members, Mrs. Harvey and Mrs. Sanders. Tea hostesses were Mrs. M. S. Toy, Miss D. M. Jones, and P. M. Buckley, and the mystery prize went to Mrs. L. Bettson.

It was announced by Mrs. Preston that Mrs. D. M. Atkin had agreed to be assistant secretary, Miss E. Rotchell to attend to "Home and Country" and Mrs. M. L. Waters and Mrs. Hilda Williscroft will be responsible for all matters connected with the china.

Colton—F. Hardcastle 177; L. Mellor 153; A. N. Felton 120; Mrs. J. L. Taylor 114; R. Morrall 113; B. Bettson 103; G. F. Upton 102.

Not elected: Mrs. M. S. Toy 98; J. C. Price 91; J. Brown 78; J. Tittensor 74; R. W. Parr 68; W. A. Norman 63; J. F. Peet 52; F. G. Ballard 29.

Greatest interest was centred on the Colton election, where 15 candidates had been nominated for the seven seats. Feeling has been running high during the past few months, with disagreements between the Parish Council and the church authorities concerning the burial ground extension and alterations.

The previous councillors have however, been returned. The vacancy caused by the resignation of the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, has been taken by Mr. G. F. Upton, who narrowly missed being elected on the last occasion. This time he achieved a place, though only polling one more vote!

COLTON 23/6/61

Presiding at the June meeting of Colton W.I. held in the Reading Room, Mrs. I. Preston (President) welcomed Mrs. F. Wain, who having represented Colton at the National Federation A.G.M., visited members to give her report. A vote of thanks to Mrs. Wain was proposed by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft. Mrs. Preston introduced Miss Johnson, who gave a talk, and showed a film on 'Cheeses', which showed a group of British youth, (one girl from Lichfield) in Norway. Miss Johnson was accorded members' thanks by Mrs. Sanders. Mrs. M. S. Toy (Chairman of the 'Best Kept Village' competition committee) appealed for support in this connection. The competition 'An attractive way to

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MRS. J. L. TAYLOR and Mr. LUKE MELLOR

wish to express their gratitude to the

ELECTORS of COLTON

for the continued confidence placed in

JOINT MEETING TO SETTLE DISPUTE

COLTON annual church meeting, which took place in St. Mary's School last week, was exceptionally well attended.

The Rector (the Rev. A. S. Towlson), presiding, thanked all church officers for the year's work, saying special thanks were due to Mr. D. E. Waters, licensed lay reader and headmaster of St. Mary's School, for the way he had carried on the church life during the Recor's recent illness.

The procedure allows for 27 seats on the Parochial Church Council, but as there were not more than 20 people nominated, this number were declared elected. They were: Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Bettson, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Best, Mr. B. Maurice Williscroft, Mrs. J. L. Taylor, Mr. Luke Mellor, Mr. D. E. Waters, Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Felton, Mrs. W. M. Towlson, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, Mr. Joseph Tittensor, Mr. C. M. Boycott, Mr. F. M. Cooper, Miss D. A. Cooper, Mr. R. W. Parr, Mr. and Mrs. A. I. D. Collins, and Mr. W. A. Norman.

It was decided that as from and including 1962, the P.C.C. shall consist of 15 members (including ex-officio members). The Rector announced that he had elected Mr. J. Tittensor as his warden, and Mr. D. E. Waters as deputy rector's warden; Mr. B. M. Williscroft was re-elected people's warden and Mr. Norman as deputy people's warden.

The representative to the diocesan conferences was elected last year to run for three years and is Mrs. Ravenscroft; the same applies to the ruridecanal representatives, namely, Mr. F. W. Cooper and Mr. Norman. Sidesmen appointed are Messrs. Bettson, Felton, Mellor, Parr, F. S. Knight junr., Boycott and Collins.

RECTOR'S THANKS

The Rector extended thanks to Mr. Bernard Bettson, who had been rector's warden for a grand total of 25 years and had been an active church worker for almost 32 years. Mr. Bettson, in reply, thanked the Rector for his remarks.

Mr. Felton thanked the Rector for remarks on his service as deputy Rector's Warden, and expressed the hope that the new Wardens would get the Rector's co-operation with the parish. Mr. J. A. Best had declined nomination as deputy People's Warden and as a sidesman, saying that at his age he did not feel he could any longer undertake these duties.

The Rector remarked on Mr. F. W. Cooper's recent illness and expressed thanks to Miss Cooper for her work on revising the Electoral Roll.

The Rector said could a letter be sent to the Parish Council asking them to "take their foot off" the strip of ground on the highway side of the prospective new Burial Ground. He wished this to be dedicated to the County Council, and he felt the Parish Council's attitude appeared to be holding the matter up. The two Churchwardens appeared willing to support this request, but the matter was not carried any further at this stage as the Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr. Fred Hardcastle explained the attitude of the Parish Council in the matter of the Burial Ground.

He said the Parish Council had never intended being obstructive, but when they had complaints from members of the

100 W.I. members at Group meeting

Times 8/4/61

UPWARDS of 100 members of Women's Institutes attended the spring meeting of the Parkside Group. They met in Admaston Parish Hall, and Blithfield was the hostess institute.

Mrs. J. Taylor (Colton), the convener, introduced Mrs. T. E. Rees, president of Blithfield, who welcomed visiting members from Abbots Bromley, Colton, Great Haywood, Kingstone and Marchington Woodlands.

Mrs. F. Cowcill (V.C.O.) and member of the County executive Committee gave the county news and outlined forthcoming events. They were thanked by Mrs. Rees.

A cookery demonstration was given by Mrs. Dando, of the Midlands Electricity Board, and she was thanked by Mrs. D. Bentley (Blithfield) and Mrs. I. Preston (Colton).

The sausage rolls competiti was judged by Mrs. Dando, awarded first prize to Mrs. (Colton) and second to Excell (Blithfield).

The competition scarf was judged and the winners W. Moore (Woo D. Bentley (Blit by Mrs. Cowci Leedham (Woodl

A vote of than was proposed by (Woodlands) ar Mrs. D. Whittak

Tea was served

the hostess institute and th social time was organised by Mis E. R. H. Rees and Miss S. Devin of Burton-on-Trent.

Mrs. I. Preston won the qu prize. Mrs. W. Green was i charge of the competition, th prize, given by Mrs. Rees, bein won by Mrs. J. Lamb (Kingstone

A vote of thanks to the hoste institute was proposed by Mrs. I Hopper (Great Haywood) ar seconded by Mrs. W. M. Snelsc (Abbots Bromley).

Another deadlock in rumpus over burial ground

Advertiser 20/4/61

(Jo Banks Report)

YET another meeting over the burial ground improvemen scheme at Colton has ended in deadlock.

The meeting, convened by the parish council and to which the Parochial Church Council was invited, was held at Colton School on Friday. But many of those who attended had varying views on its purpose.

After Mr. Jim Toye, independent of either section, had been elected chairman, Councillor F. Hardcastle Parish council chairman said that objective of the meeting was to discuss the parish council's objections to the handing over of a strip of ground to the County Council.

The Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towl-

then go towards buildings a retai ing wall around the burial groun

Mr. Hardcastle gave an assuran that the parish council would fa ourably consider withdrawing o jections they had lodged against th dedication, when the parochi church council's decision was mad

After further discussion, Mr. Tow son suggested that "there might b something to be said for putting th matter to he new parish council when elected".

Retorted Mr. Hardcastle: "Threats of that description are ridiculous".

allor joined in the le declared that C.C. was be- ide that did They re- mise with

an artist's ted burial osed with he P.C.C. the hand each th

COLTON NEEDS COOPERATION

Times 8/4/61

MEETING FAILS TO BREAK COLTON DEADLOCK

Times (A W Neals Report) 22/4/61

Sentinel Report on page 13

THE joint meeting arranged between members of Colton Parish Council and Colton Parochial Church Council on Friday, accomplished little in the way of smoothing out the difference that has arisen in the village over the burial ground scheme.

At the outset of the meeting the Rector, the Rev. A. Stanley Towlson, proposed that there should be a neutral chairman, but Mr. F. Hardcastle, chairman of the Parish Council, argued that it was the responsibility of the Parish Council to conduct the meeting.

Disagreeing, the rector said: "I came with an open mind to try and make things better. This is not a meeting of the Parish Council any more than it is a meeting of the Parochial Church Council."

Mr. J. H. Toy, who is not a member of either council, agreed to take the chair, and an agenda was discussed.

Mr. Hardcastle said the meeting was called to discuss the Parish Council's objection to the dedication of certain ground to the County Council, and that was the only item that should be discussed.

The rector proposed that both Parish Council and Church Council clerks should take minutes, but it was eventually agreed that Mr. S. J. Timmins, clerk to the Parish Council, should act as clerk.

Mr. Timmins said the Parish Council were supposed to be at the meeting at the request of Mr. Towlson, to "take their foot off" a piece of land.

"Very fed up"

"A lot of people are very fed up with the state of deadlock. Let us clear up any differences and get on with the job," replied the rector.

Mr. Hardcastle pointed out that they were there to hear the views of the Parochial Church Council, but apparently they had not agreed on the matter. The Parish Council were not willing to consider the question until they were satisfied that the Church Council had reached agreement.

"Then we are more or less at

Town and Country Planning Act regarding councils having the opportunity, at a time of development, to make observations on any land outside proposed development and the highway.

"There is an 18 ft. strip required for regrading and realigning the road, to take out the dangerous bend. When land is dedicated to the authority they erect a fence. In this case there would be an item of about £250 forthcoming, which would go towards the cost of a retaining wall. The soil is waterlogged, and the wall which is needed will be built of natural stone to blend with Colton's beautiful church," said the rector.

He claimed that there was no decision to be taken by either the Parish Council or the P.C.C., as the land could not be used for any other purpose. The County Council had deferred its decision and now should be asked to accept the offer and agree on the amount of compensation.

No authority

"But it is necessary for the rector to get authority, before offering the ground. He has no authority," said Mr. Hardcastle.

Asked by the chairman for an explanation regarding the ownership, the rector said the land belonged to the Lichfield Diocesan Trust, but it had been conveyed to the church at Colton.

"We are aware from public complaints that you have overridden the P.C.C. and you have not got their permission," said Mr. Hardcastle.

"Then this meeting has failed in its purpose and had better be closed," retaliated the rector.

This brought agreement from the Parish Council chairman, who added: "There is no object in pursuing it."

"We are here to uphold public complaints, if they are justified. You get the permission of your P.C.C. and we will have another

Hardcastle thought that the Parish Council would give favourable consideration to the proposal once they were satisfied that the P.C.C. were behind the rector.

He complained that the rector had gone on without "putting his cards on the table." He understood that he had dedicated the land without the consent of the P.C.C. It was considered a waste of good land as the County Council had no intention of widening the road for 50 years.

The rector would not agree to call another P.C.C. meeting, but repeatedly asked for permission to have a "show of hands" of P.C.C. members present, claiming that there were only three absentees. "We met last Friday and talkd for over three hours but never reached this point on the agenda," he said.

Further delay

He pointed out that the County Council sub-committee, who deferred the matter because of representations made by the Parish Council, would not meet again until June, and if no statement was ready by then, it would mean a further delay of months before work could be resumed and the eyesore removed.

Mr. Hardcastle said it was wrong of the P.C.C. chairman not to have given the matter priority on his agenda so that he could have come to that joint meeting with a mandate.

Mr. L. Mellor said he was to blame for some of the delay at the P.C.C. meeting, by taking up time trying to get unity within the P.C.C. and trying to get the rector to agree to a compromise.

Mr. Timmins, who had earlier suggested that the dissension in the village was only because people did not agree with the scheme in its entirety, offered a compromise that the burial ground scheme should be adopted in part so that the ground could be leveled. He said the Parish Council had been waiting for months for a reply from the rector and his solicitor on a simple matter.

Pressed by Mr. Toy to give an undertaking to call a meeting of his P.C.C. to get a majority decision, the rector said: "I can see no good purpose in another meeting, with so much belligerence. It will be far better to leave it for a month or two."

The rector then announced his intention of leaving the meeting and prepared to go.

Mr. Upton asked if the rector could not give the village an artist's impression of the proposals as members of the public felt the face of the village was being changed without reason.

Colton churchyard controversy continues despite Parish Council/P.C.C. meeting

THE differences between Colton's parish council and parochial church council are still far from being settled, despite a lengthy meeting between the two bodies last Friday evening. Strong views were heard on the controversy which has split them—the burial ground scheme near to the Rugeley entrance to the village—but those people who declared that they "wanted to see things moving" must have been disappointed when the meeting ended without much progress having been made.

At the commencement of the meeting an impartial Chairman was appointed in the person of Mr. J. Toy, who is not a member of either body.

The Chairman of the parish council, Mr. F. Hardcastle, said the purpose of the meeting was to discuss his council's objections to the dedication of certain ground to the County Council.

The Rector, Rev. A. S. Towlson, who recently resigned from the parish council, said he thought a lot of people were "fed up" with the controversy, and his idea of attending that meeting was to clear up any differences and get on with the job.

Mr. Hardcastle said the parish council were there to listen to the results of any discussions had by the church council on the matter, but it seemed to him that no discussion had taken place and no progress had been made. In view of that fact the parish council were not prepared to go ahead until the parish council had reached a unanimous decision on the subject under discussion.

He continued: "Constitutionally the Rector did not have a right to dedicate this land without consulting the church council. Therefore he was not justified in dedicating it."

Outlining the details of the dedication the Rector said there was a statute in Parliament under the 1947 Town and Country Planning Act. Under provisions of that act if there was any development of land the planning authority (in this case the County Council together with the Lichfield R.D.C.,) had the opportunity to make observations as to the use of that part of land which bordered on part of the highway or road.

"There is a piece of land outside here," he continued, "that varies in width from 18 ft., and it is regarded under this act for future re-grading and re-alignment on the road outside here for the purpose of taking out a dangerous bend."

SIMPLE PROCESS

He said there was a simple process known as "dedication," where the people concerned offered to dedicate the land to the highway authority for their purpose. When the land had been dedicated it then became the responsibility of the highway authority to erect a fence on the new highway boundary.

The Vicar went on to discuss compensation to be paid by the County Council for the cost of the fence, and estimated that in their case an item of about £250 would be forthcoming. He said some of them felt the wall should be built with stone to blend with their "lovely old Church at Colton."

"In view of certain representations made by the parish council of Colton to the County Council this matter has now been deferred to the next meeting of the appropriate sub-committee which is to be held in June," he said. "It is just a question of finding dedication is not considered then any form of compensation would be lost."

Mr. Hardcastle said they could utilise the land in question until the County Council put a requiring order on it for development. On the other hand, he said, the Vicar had stated that there was no decision to be taken, but it was necessary for him, before putting the matter to the County Council, to get certain authority.

"He knows he has not got that authority," continued Mr. Hardcastle, "so why mislead the meeting."

Arguments for and against the dedication were aired at will but no real progress was made until Mr. Toy, summarising what had taken place, told the Rector: "As I see it, if you have got the full support of your church council to sell this piece of land, I don't think the parish council will have any objections at all."

The Rector suggested a church meeting be held in an adjoining room, but members of the parish council objected on the grounds that a number of church council members were missing, and that notice of a joint meeting only had been given.

A member of the public, Mr. G. Upton, said there was more bad feeling in the village over that matter than he could ever remember. "The face of the village is being changed without reason," he said, "and the villagers feel badly about it."

Prior to the conclusion of the meeting the Rector buttoned up his coat and prepared to leave, advising others to do the same. He said: "I have done my best for Colton for four years, and I can see no purpose being served in having another meeting."

TROUBLE IN 'RIFT' VILLAGE NOT YET CLEARED UP

TROUBLE at the "old world" village of Colton, near Rugeley, continues. A villager said at a joint meeting of the parish council and the parochial church council last night that certain villagers had found the face of the village had changed overnight because of an extensive churchyard improvement scheme.

This controversy over the village burial ground scheme near to th Rugeley entrance to the village, has split the Rector of Colton, the Rev A. S. Towlson from the parish council.

He resigned at a recent meeting.

Members of the parish council have said that the rector had gone his own way with the scheme.

Last night the two councils met to discuss the dedication of a strip of land, adjoining the burial ground, to the county highway authority.

No agreement was reached with the topic often switching to discussing the churchyard scheme as a whole.

The rector who was present as a member of the P.C.C. buttoned up his overcoat and prepared to leave before the "impartial" chairman, Mr. J. Toye, closed the meeting.

COMPENSATION

Chairman of the parish council, Mr. F. Hardcastle, said that the P.C.C. should meet to discuss the dedication and compensation regarding the land. They should reach a majority decision and then the parish council would hear the matter favourably.

Mr. Towlson said he had done his best for Colton for four years and he could not see any purpose could be served by having another meeting.

It was probably better, he said, to defer the matter for "a month or two."

Members of the parish council did not agree to his suggestion that there should be an on the spot meeting of the P.C.C. in an adjoining room, because of a number of absentees among the P.C.C. members present and also on the ground that notice a joint meeting only had been gi

"There is a piece of land outside here," he continued, "that varies in width from 18 ft., and it is regarded under this act for future re-grading and re-alignment on the road outside here for the purpose of taking out a dangerous bend."

SIMPLE PROCESS

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"In view of certain representations made by the parish council of Colton to the County Council, this matter has now been deferred to the next meeting of the appropriate sub-committee which is to be held in June," he said. "It is just a question of finding out whether or not in the first

COLTON

Produce Guild. — There was a record attendance at the Village Produce Guild meeting held in the Reading Room. Mr. J. H. Toy presiding. After the minutes of the March meeting had been read and confirmed, various business items were discussed, these included the proposed outing to Kew Gardens. Mr. Trevor Preston having requested a date be decided so that he could make arrangements. June 25th., was suggested.

Names were taken of those members wishing to attend the County Rally at Hodnett Hall on April 29th. Mr. R. A. Brundle, (representative on the County Executive Committee) gave details of County events. It having been decided not to stage exhibits at the County Show this year, but instead to do so at the Food Production Rally and Rodbaston Farm Institute in June.

Colton being asked to be responsible for the arrangements, and a committee was formed. Abbots Bromley and Colwich Guilds to be asked for representatives to serve on this committee. Colton members who agreed to be on the committee were Mr. Brundle, Mrs. M. S. Toy, Mrs. D. Timmins and Mr. A. Meddings. Mr. Toy suggested a small rose show at the July meeting. Following business the company enjoyed a film show by Mr. G. I. Timmins, films included, Mrs. J. L. Taylors films of scenes in Persia, it being a pleasure to people who knew Mrs. Taylors daughter, Monica, to see her and her family, and the part of the world they live in, also shots of Mrs. Taylor during her visit there last year, one of these was taken by the Caspian Sea.

Mrs. Taylor gave the commentary during the films, she was thanked on members behalf by Mr. Percy Tabernor. Mr. Timmins next showed films on various Pests and Diseases, he was thanked by Mrs. Ivy Preston.

The competition for "An Arrangement of Spring Flowers" was very keenly contested and was judged by Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. G. Mellor, who awarded prizes to Mrs. D. Timmins, Mrs. M. S. Toy, Mrs. L. Preston and Mrs. E. H. Tabernor. Mrs. Taylor remarked on the wonderful show of flowers. The chairman ended thanks to the judges saying he felt they had performed their difficult task very well. Tea hostesses were Miss D. M. Jones, Mrs. M. R. Jones, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft and Miss Madoline Ravenscroft

Mothers Union.—The April meeting of the Mothers Union was held in the Reading Room and was well attended, the rector introduced the speaker Army Sisters (who are at present on a Mission in the Colton parish), Sister Harris and Sister Butler. The rector conducted a short service and Sister Harris gave a talk and answered invited questions.

A vote of thanks of members to the sisters were extended by Mrs. E. M. Sergeant. A donation of £1 was given to the Church Army Mission and a book stall was laid out.

Colton W.I. interest in photography

At the April meeting of Colton W.I., held on Tuesday of last week, Mrs. I. Preston presiding, Mr. W. C. Barham, secretary of Rugeley Photographic Society, gave a talk on cameras and photography, and answered all questions.

Thanks by Mrs. Preston and Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, Mr. Barham afterwards judged the competitions, which were won by Mrs. Tooley with "My oldest photograph," and Mrs. C. M. Amyes with a saucer of cress.

The County Letter was read and members discussed the County Show exhibit. It was decided to have a special meeting nearer the date of the show to settle details.

Mrs. Preston welcomed two new members, Mrs. Harvey and Mrs. Sanders, and annuounced that Mrs. D. M. Atkin had resigned the office of assistant secretary: Miss E. Ratchell would attend in Mrs.

Colton outing

Colton members joined in the annual rally of Village Produce Guilds at Hodnet Hall on Saturday. A good number travelled by coach with Abbots Bromley members. The rain held off and

The [illegible] each capture!

Police-constable John Reader and Woman Police-constable Patricia Grace Perry after their wedding at St. Mark's Church, Wyrley, today.

A Wednesfield policewoman sharpshooter who fell in love with a Willenhall policeman after meeting him at a .22 shooting tournament in Stafford was married at Great Wyrley today.

It was the second all-police wedding at St. Mark's Church this year. The bride's father is a special-police sergeant and one of the bridesmaids is a Lichfield policewoman.

The bride was Miss Patricia Grace Perry, of Penrhyn, Shaw's-lane, Great Wyrley, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Perry. Her father is also vice-chairman of the local parish council.

The groom was Police-constable John Reader, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Reader, of Eccleshall-road, Great Bridgeford, Stafford.

Woman police-constable Joan Glover, of Lichfield, was a bridesmaid together with Miss Christine Perry, the bride's sister, and Miss Ann Reader, the groom's sister. Mr. L. C. S. Turner was best man.

The bride wore white net with pearl and mother of pearl sequins, and carried orchids. She was given away by her father.

The couple are to stay in the police force after honeymooning Wales.

having an Area of some 1

y suitable for Development in due Permission being obtained). Gas, Ele ible. At present the Estate is used purposes and the remainder for Fo

VALUABLE TIPPIN

Planning Permission, having an Are s). Included in the Sale is an establis ain sewer, at the junction of major road frontage of almost 1 mile, to

To be offered for SALE by

THURSDAY, 4th MAY, 196

REGENT HOUSE, ST. PHILIP'S ROW, BIRMINGHA

WINTERTON & S

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tioneers' Offices—
ST. MARY'S CHAMBERS, LICHF
9, COLEHILL, TAMWORTH

LICHFIELD SMITHFIELD

NDAY, 24th APRIL, 1961

147 FAT CATTLE
Steers and Heifers; 36 Cows. 10.30 a.m.

355 FAT SHEEP
12.30 p.m.

307 FAT PIGS
Porkets, Cutters and Bacons; 14 Sows. 1.30 p.m.

200 FAT AND REARING CALVES
1 p.m.

275 DAIRY AND STORE CATTLE
12.30 p.m.
cluding entries of Dairy Cows d Heifers; Hereford Cross, gus and Friesian Steers and ifers.

350 STORE PIGS
11.15 a.m.
cluding Special Section for C.V.V. injected Pigs.

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Photo flashback

May Day was for many years kept up in Colton on a lavish scale, with a procession, a May Queen and her retinue selected, and of course dancing round the Maypole. This picture taken in 1897 shows the procession coming from the direction of the church. It was lent by Miss D. Landor.

Photo Flashback

Mr. Lancelot Wheats has submitted this Admaston village school group taken in 1911. He is seated on the ground fourth from right. Mr. Wheats now lives at 128 Pendarrell Road, Walsall. He does not recall many of the names but says the teachers were Miss Salmon and Mr. Scott. Back row (from left): Joe Greensmith, Stonebridge, - - -, Pye, - - Bert Brown. Second row: (Third along) Dean; (fifth) Stonebridge; (sixth), Lucy Venables. Third row: May Brown, Rosa Stonebridge, Kitty Pye, Lizzie Grundy, Gertrude Kendrick.

TREASURED since 1919 and now the worse for wear, this photograph is of pupils at Admaston School (now closed) with Miss Sammonds on the left and Mr. Scott, the school master (right) — who had just returned from war service.

It has been lent by Mrs. W. Edge, of 59, Armitage Road, Rugeley, who, as Eva Davis, appears near the back.

Front row (left to right): ———, ———, Gladys Smith, ———, Emily Bentley, Ada Bentley, ———, ———, Fred Cope. Second row: John Lamb, Charlie Causer, E. Frost, ———, ———, Charlie Knight, Blanche Bentley (now Mrs. Ravenscroft of Colton).

Third row: ———, Natalie Wood, Elsie Kendrick, D. Bentley, May Bentley, Jim Smith, ———. Fourth row: ———, Eva Davis, Violet Causer, Nancy Causer, G. Kendrick, L. Grundy. Back row: Eva Knight, Rosa Stonebridge, a Dutch girl, Frances Smith, G. Cooper, ———.

Mr. B. Lloyd and the former Miss S. Pratt

Farmer's daughter marries soliciter

13/7/63

MISS SUSAN PRATT, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. P. P. Pratt, of Trent Farm, Rugeley, was married on Saturday, to Mr. Brian Lloyd, only son of Mrs. D. Lloyd and the late Mr. W. E. Lloyd, of Hollies, The Crescent, Walton-on-the-Hill, Stafford.

The bridegroom is a partner in a Stafford firm of solicitors and the bride is secretary to another local firm of solicitors.

The Rev. N. R. Torrington officiated at the ceremony, which took place at St. Augustine's Parish Church.

BRIDESMAIDS

The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a white full-length empire line dress of guipure lace and nylon chiffon with a short train in the skirt. A pillbox headdress of white petals scattered with pearls secured a three-quarter length veil. She carried a sheaf of orchids, pink roses, eucharist lilies and stephanotis.

Bridesmaids were Miss M. E. Lloyd (bridegroom's sister) and Miss A. Pratt (bride's cousin). They wore pink Victorian style full-length dresses with pink petal and pearl headdresses and carried pommanders of pink roses and white chrysanthemums.

Mr. Bill Boon was best man and ushers were Messrs Nicholts Cox, Timothy Pratt, Geoffrey Pratt and David Young.

The bridegroom is Group Scout Leader of the 12th Stafford (Berkswich) Scout Group. He was educated at Tettenhall College and his bride is a former student of Rugeley Grammar School

ENUMERATORS ARE BRIEFED FOR THE BIG COUNT

THE great 10-yearly count of every person in England and Wales takes place on Sunday, April 23 and today (Saturday) 40 local enumerators begin their task of *delivering a schedule to every household.*

Local people have been appointed for the task and they are working under the supervision of a retired postmaster, Mr. F. E. Masser, of Mavesyn Ridware. Mr. Masser, in turn, is responsible to Somerset House for the successful completion of the census in this area, comprising Rugeley Urban District and seven surrounding parishes in the Lichfield Rural District.

Enumerators are as follows:—Brereton Ward, Mr. E. A. Setterfield, Mr. A. T. Jarvis, Mr. J. K. Cope, Mr. A. Johnson, Mr. R. E. Hassall; Hagley Ward, Mr. W. J. Masser, Col. H. H. Hutchinson, Mr. D. Walker, Mrs. G. J. Massingham; Pear Tree Ward, Mr. A. F. B. Chalmers, Mrs. M. E. Chalmers, the Rev. B. A. Hardy; Revenhill Ward, Mrs. V. M. Pratt, Mrs. R. M. Wood, Mr. D. H. Jones; Wolseley Road Ward, Mrs. M. J. Maynard, Mrs. K. Neal, Mr. S. H. Pope, Mr. P. Chalmers.

Colton, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, Mr. D. E. Waters.

Mavesyn Ridware, Mrs. K. D. Hancox, Mr. W. W. Borraston; Hamstall Ridware, the Rev. D. G. Rogers; King's Bromley, the Rev. G. Williams-Jones, Mr. G. J. Bennett.

Armitage, Mr. W. J. Perry, Mr. G. V. Page, Mrs. E. B. Beeson, Mr. F. G. Palmer.

Longdon, Mrs. C. M. Bowdler, Mr. D. Oakden.

Gentleshaw, Mr. L. A. Heydon.

Brindley Heath, Mr. G. W. Fitch, Mr. J. Brewer, Mrs. P. Brewer.

In the parish of Colwich, which comes within the census district of Mr. Talbot (Stafford), the enumerators are Mr. J. Roose, Mrs. W. A. Roose, Mr. J. Cowley and Mr. G. Harrison.

Why the census? Population figures between censuses are only estimates and every 10 years since 1801 (except for 1941) a count of heads has been taken. But it is more than that, for it includes information about how the people are living, how many have to travel to other towns for employment, what kind of education is being given or has been received, and so on.

Reliable results could not be obtained by any other method, such as sample surveys and most countries now adopt the census method of obtaining statistics. The first totals will be available in a few weeks, but the more detailed information which will be revealed by these confidential forms will take years to sift and tabulate for the whole country. After the last census, it took eight years to complete this work.

Though the forms may appear complicated, especially those whi are given to every 10th house, th are the minimum to serve t purpose and have been made straightforward as possible.

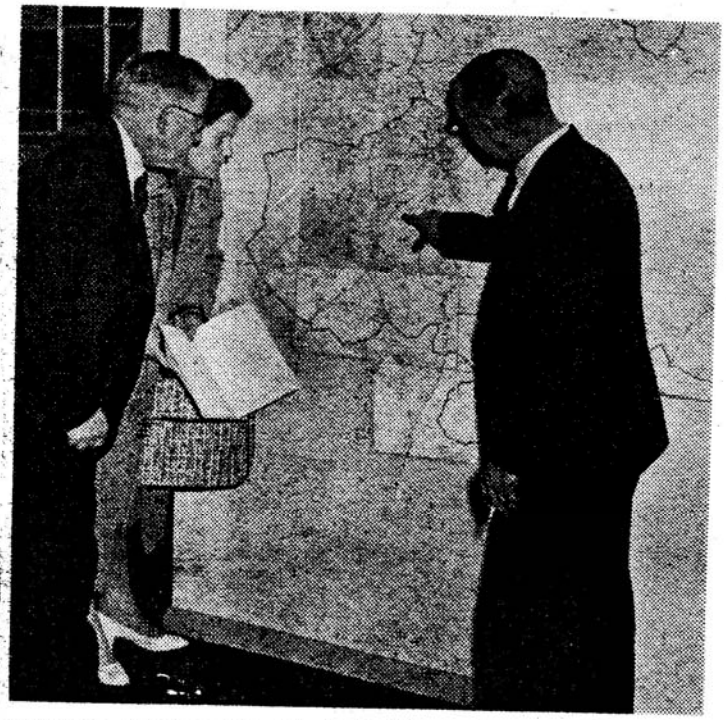
Questions about marriage a children allow for planning ahe for the care of children and o people; education questions w show which industries most ne further facilities for technic education. Information abo scientists will be classified for t first time.

There is no reliable informatio about the numbers of people wh move from one part of the countr to another. A question about pre ious addresses will help to asse the degree of stability of loca populations over various periods o time and indicate the amount o movement. This will be a help t planning authorities.

The information about people' homes will help to form futur policy. Local councils are anxiou to get information about dwelling in their areas, for instance, whic are not equipped with moder amenities.

The main point about the whole census is that it is strictly confidential. Heavy penalties are provided by law for anyone, enumerators or householders, who improperly disclose or make use of information given for census purposes. Likewise, no use can be made of the information for tracking down offenders.

The enumerators start their rounds today and are allowed one week in which to contact every household, leave a form and give any necessary advice about it. The householder should complete the form on Sunday, April 23, including everyone who is sleeping there that night. On April 24, all the forms must be collected by the enumerators.



With the aid of a map, Mr. F. E. Masser (census officer) and one of the enumerators discuss a route with Mr. W. A. Brookes, Lichfield registrar.

Colton whist

A successful whist drive ta held in Colton Village School Friday, organised by the hea master and teachers to provi funds for the pupils' Christma party. Mr. Percy Westhorpe w M.C. and Mr. G. E. D. Atkin (seve presented prizes to: Mrs. G. Nicholls, Mr. R. Godridge, M M. A. Westhorpe, Mr. H. Lal Mrs. E. E. Myatt, Mr. G. Hanic son (jun.), Mrs. A. M. Fostea Mr. J. Bloor. Miniatures: Mth Nicholls, and Mr. H. Foster Sealed numbers: Mrs. J. Meth ings and Mr. Eric Sargeard Lowest scores: Mrs. D. M. Ath and Mr. R. T. Martin.

Grocery parcels were won th Stella Williscroft, Mrs. E. Knigh Mrs. J. Sargeant, Mrs. P. L. Bos nister, Mrs. G. E. Tittensor, Ja J. H. Toy, Mrs. Nicholls, Mrs. M. Preston, Ann Turner, Mrs. Timmins and dressed doll, Leslie Colton.

Mr. D. E. Waters thanked who had helped.

Footpath diversion at Colton

Lichfield Rural Council, con sidering a foothpath diversion a Rydal Farm, Colton, on Friday, decided that Colton Parish Coun cil and the owner of the land should be asked to consider an alternative route and furnish report at the next meeting.

The parish council had stated that the diversion, as proposed, would be totally unreasonable, in view of the fact that a further 300 yards would be added to an in and out journey to the village.

It was reported that the clerk and the engineer and surveyor had commented on an alternative route when the matter was discussed by the Health and Planning Committee, and Councillor F. Hardcastle, the Colton member who is chairman of the parish council, had asked for an opportunity to consider the matter further.

PROFESSOR TALKS TO COLTON W.I.

At the May meeting of Colton W.I. held in the Reading Room, Mrs. I. Preston presiding, business matters were kept brief. The county letter was read and there was a discussion on the resolutions to be tabled at the annual meeting of the National Federation.

As it is not possible for a delegate from either Blithfield or Colton to attend the national meeting, the representative will be Mrs. F. Wain (V.C.O.).

Mrs. Preston welcomed Professor A. R. Gemmell, of the University College of North Staffordshire, who gave an interesting talk on the population of Britain and enlightened members on the reason for some of the questions being included in the recent census. He answered a number of questions and was thanked by Mrs. M. S. Toy.

It was announced that more crockery had been ordered, but nothing had been decided regarding the purchase of an electric kettle or urn.

The competition for a flower arrangement attracted only two entries. These were judged by Professor Gemmell, who awarded the prize to Mrs. P. M. Buckley.

Tea hostesses were Mrs. V. M. Pratt, Mrs. June Meddings, Mrs. A. Meddings and Miss E. Rotchell.

The mystery prize was won by Mrs. I. R. Brown.

COLTON

The May meeting of the Colton W.I. was held in the Reading Room, the president, Mrs. I. Preston, presiding. Business matters included a discussion on the resolutions for the national A.G.M. for which the representative will be Mrs. F. Wain V.C.O. Mrs. Preston welcomed Professor Alan R. Gemmell, of the University College of North Staffordshire who gave an interesting talk on the population of Britain. He was thanked by Mrs. M. S. Toy. The competition for "A flower arrangement," was judged by Professor Gemmell and won by Mrs. P. M. Buckley. Tea hostesses were Mrs. V. M. Pratt, Mrs. June Meddings, Mrs. A. Meddings and Miss E. Rotchell, and the mystery prize went to Mrs. I. R. Brown.

Colton tour

COLTON

Whist drive.—A successful whist drive took place in the village school on Friday last week organised by Colton Village Produce Guild, to help their funds. Mr. Percy Westhorpe acted as M.C. and Miss D. M. Jones (hon. sec. to the Guild) presented prizes to: Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, Mr. F. S. Knight (jun.), Miss Mary Preston, Mr. George Hampson (jun.), Mrs. B. Judkins

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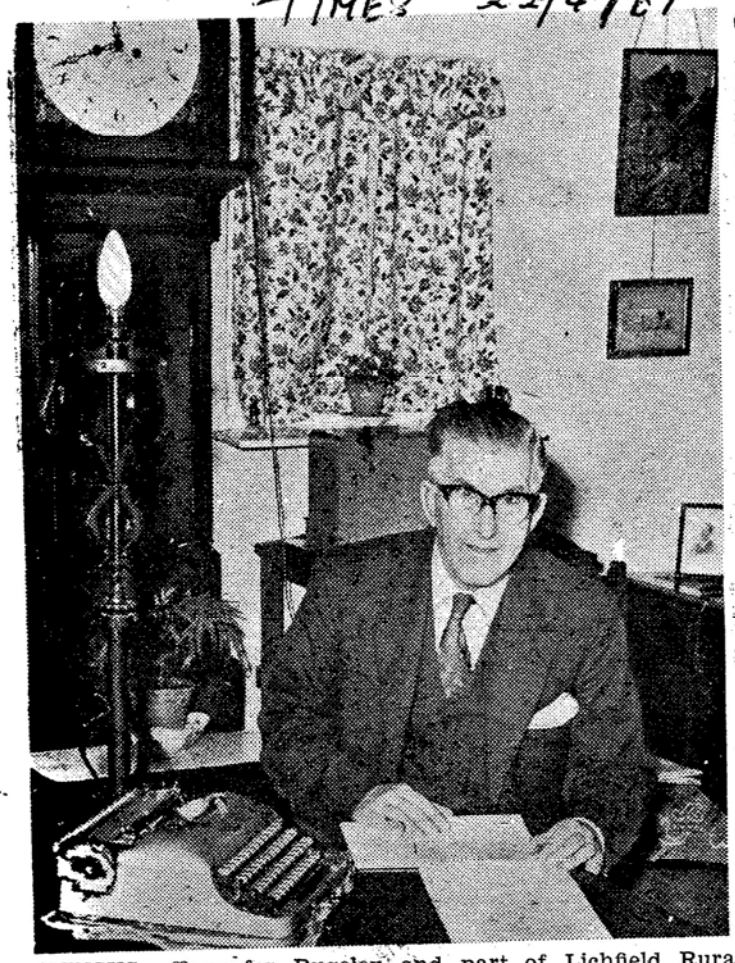
MR. F. E. MASSER

TIMES 22/4/61



CENSUS officer for Rugeley and part of Lichfield Rural District, Mr. Frank E. Masser, of Eastfields, Mavesyn Ridware, is a retired postmaster, who plays Mavesyn Ridware Church organ.

Born at Brereton in 1898, his father was postmaster of Brereton until his death in 1907, and his father-in-law, John Hyden, who had previously held the post from 1870. After Mr. Masser's death, his widow continued as postmistress until her death in 1948.

Mr. Masser started in the postal service as a telegraph messenger at Rugeley post office in 1912 and well remembers delivering telegrams, calling up reservists on August Bank Holiday, 1914. In 1916, he was drafted to the 5th Battalion The North Staffordshire Regiment, and served in France at Ypres, Lens and on other sectors. He was taken prisoner at Bullecourt in the Spring Offensive of 1918 and worked as loader in a coal mine in Dortmund, Westphalia.

Returning to civilian life, he worked as postman while studying and awaiting appointment as sorting clerk and telegraphist. He worked in this capacity at Wolverhampton, from 1921 until 1939, when he joined the postal section of the Royal Engineers. He served for a time at Mount Pleasant, and later with Field Post Offices in many parts of the British Isles. He spent the last few months of the war at the Army Post Office Headquarters, Nottingham, being in charge of the registered letter section of the Overseas Branch, holding the rank of staff sergeant.

Resuming duty at Wolverhampton in 1945, Mr. Masser was promoted postal overseer and at frequent intervals acted as assistant superintendent. In 1952 he became postmaster of Stourport and in 1955 postmaster of Long Eaton. He retired in 1958.

Married to the only daughter of the late William Sutton, for many years assessor and collector of Income Tax for several parishes and rate collector for Longdon, he and his wife moved into her family home at Mavesyn Ridware in 1941. In 1947 he became organist at Mavesyn Ridware Church, his wife already being organist at Armitage.

Mr. Masser has been secretary of Mavesyn Parochial Church Council for the last 11 years. He is also trustee and treasurer of the Church Estate; clerk to the trustees of the Edward Samson Almshouses; a visitor to Stafford Prison (a Prison Commissioners' appointment), clerk to Armitage Parish

Villagers take the public platform

TIMES 6/4/61.

THE preliminary rounds of the Public Speaking Competition sponsored by Staffordshire Rural Community Council have now been completed at Hamstall Ridware, Brocton, Whitmore and Pattingham and the winning teams, to compete in the final round at Penkridge on May 27, are Brocton, Tittensor, Pattingham and Marchington.

At the contest at Hamstall Ridware on Thursday of last week, the Colton team, though they lost to Marchington, felt they had not disgraced themselves in their first entry into such a contest. Abbots Bromley provided the other team and the judges were Mrs. G. Griffiths, Mr. Deacon and Mr. T. Hadley.

The chairmen of the teams drew for order of performance, Abbots Bromley being first. Their team consisted of Mr. E. R. Shipman (chairman), Miss Rees-Jenkins (speaker) and Mr. K. Williams (vote of thanks). They chose the subject "The Theatre Today."

Colton, who followed, selected the "Village Produce Guilds" as their subject. Their team consisted of Mr. R. A. Brundle (chairman), Mrs. M. S. Toy (speaker) and Mr. S. J. Timmins, (vote of thanks).

Marchington team members were: chairman, Mr. P. Ford; speaker, Mr. J. Bannister, and Mr. F. Williams (vote of thanks). They chose the subject "Why not get married on a Wednesday."

Mr. D. M. Gibb thanked the judges who said that it had been a pleasure rather than a duty to adjudicate. He also complimented the teams taking part.

Colton team was well supported by fellow members of the Village Produce Guild.

PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST AT HAMSTALL RIDWARE

5/5/61

At the Public Speaking Contest held at Hamstall Ridware on Thursday last week, the Colton team, even though they lost to Marchington, felt they had not disgraced themselves, in their first entry into such a contest.

There should have been five teams competing but two had to withdraw owing to illness, so this left Abbots Bromley, Colton and Marchington teams to fight it out.

Mr. D. M. Gibb, secretary to the Rural Community Council, opened the meeting and introduced the teams.

Abbots Bromley team was Chairman, Mr. E. R. Shipman; Speaker, Miss Rees-Jenkins, with Mr. K. Williams as proposer of thanks, their subject being "The theatre today."

Colton team was Chairman, Mr. R. A. Brundle; Speaker, Mrs. M. S. Toy; proposer of thanks, Mr. S. J. Timmins, subject, "Village produce guilds."

Marchington team was Chairman, Mr. P. Ford; Speaker, Mr. J. Bannister; proposer of thanks Mr. F. Williams; subject, "Why not get married on a Wednesday."

Marchington go forward to finals at Penkridge on May 27. Mr. Gibb thanked the judges who said that in general it had been

25/5/61

Carol Chamberlain, age 12, of Stone Road, Stafford, made her debut int floral art at the show

25/5/61 COLTON

The May Meeting of the Colto W.I. was held in the Reading Roo the president, Mrs. I. Preston pr siding. Business matters were ke as brief as possible, and include the minutes of the April meetin and the County Letter also a di cussion on the resolutions for t national AGM, which as it has be found impossible for a delegat from Blithfield or Colton to atte the representative will be Mrs. Wain, V.C.O.

It was announced that more cu and saucers had been ordered, b nothing had been settled yet regar ing the purchase of an electr kettle or urn.

Mrs. Preston welcomed Alan Gemmell, of the University Colle of North Staffordshire who gave talk on the population of Brita and enlightened his audience on t reason for some of the questio included in the recent census.

Professor Gemmel who also in ted questions was thanked by M M. S. Toy.

The competition which attract only two entries was 'A flow arrangement', judged by Profess Gemmell and won by Mrs. P. Buckley.

Tea hostesses were Mrs. V. Pratt, Mrs. June Meddings, Mrs. Meddings, and Miss E. Rotchell a

the mytery prize went to Mrs. Brown

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COLTON

Produce Guild.—At the May meeting of the Colton Village Produce Guild held in the Reading Room present was hon. secretary of Staffs village produce guilds, Mr. D. M. Gibb, of the Rural Community Council. The Chairman, Mr. J. H. Toy welcomed Mr. Gibb, and also a new member, Mr. Nicholls of Blithfield.

Mr. Toy mentioned the illness of Mr. T. Preston (vice-chairman), and expressed the wish of members for a speedy recovery from his recent operation.

The April minutes were read by Miss D. M. Jones, hon. secretary, and confirmed. Members wishing to go on the outing to Kew Gardens on June 25th, were asked to give in their names, it being mentioned that members of Colwich Guild will join Colton on this occasion.

A letter was read from the County Association thanking Colton members for their help in the formation of the Guilds at Colwich, Denstone and Shareshill.

Another letter came from Mr. C. F. Horton, the county representative to the national federation, asking if Colton would allow their films to be shown at the annual national conference at Roehampton, members agreed to this.

Mr. Gibb gave a talk on the work of the rural community council, and village halls.

Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Gibb, who also judged the competitions, and awarded prizes to Mr. S. J. Timmins for a lettuce, and Mrs. E. H. Tabernor for a buttonhole.

The tea hostesses were Mrs. E. M. Sargeant and Miss E. Rotchell.

The schedules for the show to be held on August 19th, will be available soon. Mrs. N. E. Wain of Chatcull Old Hall, Eccleshall, will open this event.

The chairman reminded members to give all possible support in the Best Kept Village Competition efforts of 1961.

Colton Mothers' Union meeting

TIMES 27/5/61

The May meeting of Colton Mothers' Union was held in the Reading Room on Tuesday and was well attended. Mrs. J. L. Taylor (enrolling member) welcomed Mrs. M. Arnold, the deanery presiding member, a popular visitor at Colton.

Mrs. Arnold conducted a short service and gave an inspiring address on "The Holy Catholic Church". She was thanked by Mrs. H. M. Felton.

Names were taken of those members wishing to attend the Stafford Archdeaconry Festival at Lichfield Cathedral on June 20. Members were asked to notify Mrs. Ravenscroft if they wished to attend the Rugeley Deanery Festival at Cannock on July 5.

Colton Produce Guild

Recorder 19/6/61

Visitors from the Sharshill Guild were welcomed by the Chairman, Mr. J. S. Toy, when he presided at the June meeting of the Colton Village Produce Guild held in the Reading Room on Thursday last week.

Names were taken for the outing to Kew Gardens and the Chairman asked for volunteers to paint the railings round the War Memorial.

Regarding the "Best Kept Garden competition" to take place ...y, it was decided this be ... the same lines as the 1960 ...ition and Mr. F. W. Farrer ...Mr. R. K. Mowforth, be ...o judge.

...Toy introduced Mr. H. ...of Rugeley, who gave an ...ing talk on Orchids, ...the company a clear idea ...y are so expensive to buy. ...as thanked by Mr. Jack ... Mr. Brown's prize for 6 ... went to Mr. J. Meddings. ...tesses were Mrs. C. M. ...nd Mrs. D. Deacon.

Specialist gives talk on orchids at Colton

TIMES 10/6/61

VISITORS from Shareshill Village Produce Guild were welcomed to the June meeting of the Colton Guild by Mr. J. H. Toy (chairman) on Thursday of last week. Mr. H. Price, of Rugeley, gave an interesting talk on orchids, and explained why these flowers are so expensive to buy. Mr. Price, who also answered questions, brought a collection of these plants with him and invited members to visit his orchid houses. He was thanked by Mr. Jack Brown.

Members were reminded of the food production rally at Rodbaston Farm Institute on June 17, when Village Produce Guilds are staging an exhibition. Names were taken for an outing to Kew on June 25.

Mr. Toy appealed for volunteers to paint the railings round the war memorial, Mr. F. Hardcastle having provided the paint.

It was decided that the Best Kept Garden competition, to take place in July, should be run on the same lines as the 1960 competition and that Mr. F. W. Farrar and Mr. R. K. Mowforth be asked to judge the gardens.

Honour for Colton Produce Guild

TIMES 13/5/61

FILMS taken by Colton Village Produce Guild are to be shown at the national conference at Roehampton. Permission to show the Colton films, requested by Mr. C. F. Horton (county representative to the National Federation of Village Produce Guilds) was granted on Thursday of last week at a meeting held in the Reading Room.

COLTON VILLAGE PRODUCE GUILD

13/5/61

At the May meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild held in the Reading Room on Thursday last week, members were pleased to have with them the Hon. Secretary of Staffordshire Village Produce Guilds, Mr. D. M. Gibb, of the Rural Community Council.

The Chairman, Mr. J. H. Toy, welcomed Mr. Gibb, and also a new member, Mr. Nicholls, of Blithfield. Mr. Toy mentioned the illness of Mr. T. Preston (Vice-chairman), and expressed the wish of members for a speedy recovery from his recent operation. Members wishing to go on the outing to Kew Gardens on June 25, were asked to give in their names.

Mr. Gibb, saying how good he thought the Colton team were in the recent public speaking contest, addressed the meeting on the work of the Rural Community Council, and Village Halls.

The talk was followed by film slides taken of various villages during the judging in the best kept village competition. Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Gibb, who also judged the competitions, and awarded prizes to Mr. S. J. Timmins for a lettuce, and Mrs. E. H. Tabernor for a buttonhole.

The tea hostesses were Mrs. E. M. Sargeant and Miss E. Rotchell.

Schedules for the show on August 19 will be available soon, all arrangements being now complete.

The Chairman reminded members to give all possible support in the Best Kept Village Competition efforts of 1961, saying that Mr. Fred Hardcastle would be attending to the repair of the brickwork round the war memorial in the near future.

Mr. J. H. Toy (chairman) welcomed to the meeting Mr. D. M. Gibb (county secretary) and a new member, Mr. Nicholls, of Blithfield. Members sent wishes for a speedy recovery to Mr. T. Preston (vice-chairman).

A letter was read from the county association thanking members for their help in the formation of guilds at Colwich, Benstone and Shareshill and Mr. Toy said they would be pleased to help anywhere else if needed.

It was announced that Colwich members were being invited to join Colton on a visit to Kew Gardens on June 25.

Mr. Gibb, who began by complimenting the Guild on their performance in the recent public speaking contest, spoke about the work of Staffordshire Rural Community Council and village halls, explaining about grants and answering many questions.

Plans for show

Slides taken during the judging of previous best kept village competitions were afterwards shown. Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Gibb, who later judged the competitions. He awarded prizes to Mr. S. J. Timmins for a lettuce and Mrs. E. H. Tabernor for a buttonhole.

It was announced that ... for the ... be read ... arrangem... The sho... N. E. Wa... Eccleshall... man of ... at prese... Staffordsh... Women's ...

Appealing for support in tidying the village for the Best Kept Village Competition, to be judged early in July, Mr. Toy said that Mr. F. Hardcastle would repair the brickwork round the war memorial in the near future and had offered paint for the iron fence surrounding it. A volunteer painter was asked for, and a request was also made for someone to plant flowers in the memorial enclosure.

Concern at state of Colton school

TIMES 27/5/61

ONLY a short discussion on the burial ground problem took place at the initial meeting of the new Colton Parish Council on Tuesday. It was stated that there had been no further development in the matter. It was decided to press for an early meeting of the Reading Room management committee.

Councillor F. Hardcastle (chairman) welcomed the one new member to the council, Mr. G. F. Upton, and, welcoming the re-election of all the former members, said there was no doubt that they had a mandate from the parish.

Councillor Hardcastle was re-elected chairman and Mr. A. N. Felton vice-chairman, both expressing thanks for the confidence placed in them.

Regarding the trustees to represent the parish council on the Reading Room management committee, Councillor Hardcastle expressed the opinion that it would be unwise to change these in the present unsatisfactory circumstances, and he and Mr. L. Mellor were re-elected.

The same ...

being "a disgrace." Mr. Upton supported these remarks and Mr. Mellor promised to continue pressing for improvements.

Complaints

Councillor Hardcastle was re-appointed snow-clearing (contingency) supervisor. Representatives to attend the annual conference of the Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association on June 17 will be Councillor Hardcastle and, provisionally, Mr. Upton and Mr. Mellor.

An obstruction in Moreton Brook was reported and it was decided to arrange a meeting on the spot with the person concerned.

At the conclusion, Councillor Hardcastle, as the new parish representative ...

M.U. members at Cathedral

A party of seventeen members of Colton Mothers' Union visited Lichfield Cathedral on Tuesday for the Stafford Archdeaconry Mothers' Union Festival Service. The ancient cathedral made an apropriate setting for the impressive service.

Although 66 banners were carried at the service (Mrs. J. L. Taylor bearing the Colton banner), it would have been almost impossible to estimate the number of members who came to the cathedral from all corners of the Archdeaconry. During the service, the Bishop of Lichfield, Dr. A. S. Reeve, commissioned four new diocesan speakers.

TIDYING UP IN COLTON VILLAGE

A few members of Colton Village Produce Guild are again devoting some of their spare time to tidying up the public parts of the village. Ground at the side of the Reading Room and round the War Memorial has received attention, and with these efforts the village should be off to a good start in the best kept village competition.

Colton W.I. is told of 'good idea'

Presiding at the June meeting of Colton W.I., held in the Reading Room on Thursday of last week, Mrs. I. Preston welcomed Mrs. F. Wain, who had represented Colton at the National Federation's annual meeting in London.

Reporting on the meeting, Mrs. Wain explained the point made by Lady Dyer, that it would be a good idea if every W.I. member were made responsible for a particular job, however small, in her institute.

Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft thanked Mrs. Wain.

Miss Johnson gave a talk on cheeses and showed a film of a Norway holiday taken by a group of young English people, including a girl from Lichfield.

She was thanked by Mrs Sanders.

Business matters discussed included the visit to Dove Valley Bakeries in July.

Mrs. M. S. Toy, as chairman of the village committee for the Best Kept Village Competition, appealed for support in tidying the village before July.

The competition, an attractive way in which to serve after-dinner cheese, drew only one entry, from Mrs. I. R. Brown.

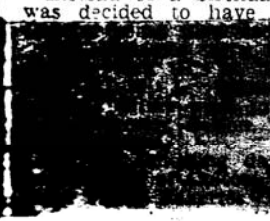
The mystery prize went to Mrs Ravenscroft, and the tea hostesses were Mrs. V. Pratt, Miss E. Rotchell and Mrs. J. E. Norman.

Wharf Cottage, the canal-side home of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Best, visited by members of Colton W.I.

AT the July meeting of Colton W.I., Mrs. I. Preston, presiding, Mrs. Gwen Carr gave a talk and demonstration on the work of a corsetiere. She was thanked by Mrs. I. R. Brown.

Names were taken of members wishing to attend handicraft classes, commencing in September. Details connected with the show were announced and help for the tea room was appealed for.

Instead of a birthday party, it was decided to have an outing,



...s. C. M. ...ton and ...oft. The ...sdames ...ley and ...members visited ...ES

olton.—The July meeting ... held in the Reading ...m, the President (Mrs. I. ...ston) presiding. Mrs ...en Carr and her model ...e a talk and demonstra... on the work of a corse...e. A vote of thanks was ...posed by Mrs. I. R. Brown. ... hostesses were Mrs. C. Amyes, Mrs. H. M. Felton ... Miss C. N. L. Williscroft. ...stery prizes went to Mrs ... E. Norman, Mrs. Felton, Mrs. Tooley and Mrs. M. L. Waters. — Members and friends who visited the Dove Valley Bakeries were most interested in all there was to see and much appreciated the welcome accorded them. Sentinel

COLTON 21/7/61

The July meeting of the Colton W.I. was held in the Reading Room the president (Mrs. I. Preston) presiding.

The minutes of the June meeting were read and confirmed and the county letter read. Names were taken of members wishing to attend handicraft classes beginning in September.

Details connected with the show were announced and help in the tea room appealed for, either in the morning or afternoon.

It was again decided to have an outing instead of a birthday party, a day at Chester was sugested. The president welcomed and introduced Mrs. Gwen Carr and her model, who gave a talk and demonstration on the work of a corsetiere.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs. I. R. Brown. Tea hostesses were Mrs. C. M. Amyes Mrs. H. M Felton and Miss C. N. L Williscroft Mystery prizes went to Mrs J. E. Norman, Mrs. Felton, Mrs. Tooley and Mrs. M. L. Waters.

Members of the W.I. and friends visited Dove Valley Bakeries. ADVERTISER

20/7/61 COLTON

Open Day.— An open day was held at Colton St. Mary's Church School, arranged by the headmaster, Mr. D. E. Waters, and Mrs. D. Shaw and Mrs. M. S. Toy. This was very well attended by parents and friends, who were most inter-

SPORTS DAY AT COLTON SCHOOL

...ther was favourable for ... day at St. Mary's School, ... Thursday of last week. ... E Waters (Headmaster) ... and starter, and the ... Mrs D. Shaw and ... G Shaw Winners of races ...

... Pamela Jones, Phillipa ... Allerton, Ian Evans, ... Haycock, Stanley Haw... Judith Norman, Peter ... Roger Bannister and ... Donkey races: ... and Philip Atkin... Evans and Vernon Nor... Knight and John Curtis, ... and Ian Myatt. ... and Peter Simms. ... races: Pamela ... Dianne Grimley, Shirley ... and Patricia Shipley ... and Carol Wisdom. ... Smith and Melaine ... races: Paul ... Ian Cooper, Brian ... Stephen Smith, Patricia ... Gwynn Sargeant, Pearl ... Melanie Logan. ... races: Christine Ben... Aldo Montecoli, Carol Mat... Angela Taylor. Straight "bunny-hop" races: Aldo ... Delia Knight, Carol ... Judy Evans, Graham ... Elaine Leeke, Glenis ... Roland Richardson Tug-of- ... Mrs. Toy's team.

...freshments were served by ...dames P. L. Bannister, D. M ...ton, K. Haynes, N. Devall and

COLTON 21/7/61

The July meeting of Colton W.I. was held in the Reading Room, the President (Mrs. I. Preston) presiding. Names were taken of members wishing to attend handicraft classes to commence in September. Details connected with the show were announced and help in the tea-room appealed for. It was again decided to have an outing instead of a birthday party, a day at Chester being suggested. The president welcomed and introduced Mrs. Gwen Carr and her model, who gave a talk and demonstration on the work of a corsetiere. A vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs. I. R. Brown. Tea hostesses were Mrs. C. M. Amyes, Mrs. H. M. Felton and Miss C. N. L. Williscroft. Mystery prizes went to Mrs. J. E. Norman, Mrs. Felton, Mrs. Tooley and Mrs. M. L. Waters. MERCURY

Colton outing

Members of Colton Women's Institute and friends who visited Dove Valley Bakeries on Thursday last week were interested in all there was to see and much appreciated the welcome accorded them. MERCURY

21/7/61 COLTON

AN OPEN DAY held at Colton St. Mary's Church School on Thursday last week and arranged by the Headmaster (Mr. D. E. Waters). Mrs. D. Shaw and Mrs. M. S. Toy, was very well attended by parents and friends, who were most interested to see the pupils' work. A display of dancing by Mrs. Toy's class was included in the programme; also some good singing. Mrs. Shaw was at the piano. The afternoon ended with a short service. Mr. Waters was also in the school in the evening for the benefit of those unable to attend in the day time.

M.U. members at Rugeley Deanery Festival

Only 12 members of Colton Mothers' Union were able to attend the Rugeley Deanery Festival, which this year was held at St. Luke's Church, Cannock, on Wednesday afternoon. Colton joined with Colwich members, who were accompanied by their vicar (the Rev. B. Matthews) in transport arrangements.

Ten banners were in the processions, Mrs. J. L. Taylor being the Colton banner bearer.

The service was conducted by the Rev. H. L. H. Townshend, Vicar of Cannock and Rural Dean, and the address was given by the Rev. R. A. Cason, Vicar of Brereton, his theme being "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom." Mr. Cason also read other verses from the Book of Proverbs.

The lessons were read by the Vicars of Abbots Bromley and Great Wyrley.

Part of the collection will be given to Mothers' Union work overseas.

Tea was provided by the Cannock members, who were thanked by the Rev. C. J. A. Payton, Vicar of Abbots Bromley.

Mrs. Payton, who is the new presiding member for the Deanery, Mrs. M. Arnold having completed nine years in this office, addressed the company and said she hoped she would still get invitations from the branches to visit them.

Mrs. Arnold has been a popular presiding member, always willing to help whenever possible.

Dance.—On the evening of the 21st. July a dance took place, the proceeds to be devoted to reading room funds, this was organised by the management committee.

Rector leads school campaign

THE 101 pupils of 100-years-old Colton Primary School are being taught in a building, which, from a sanitary point of view, has hardly changed since their grandparents were there.

So say the parish council and school managers who are trying to replace the present earth-type toilets with an up-to-date system.

Plans for enlarging and improving the school, which would include providing better toilets, have been on the cards for about two years.

One of the men backing the drive for modernisation is the village rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, who is also chairman of the school managers.

"Ever since I came here four years ago the sewerage scheme has been coming next year," said Mr Towlson.

Mr. Towlson advocated provision of a septic tank until the school could be connected with the rest of the village to a main.

He told the "Advertiser," "I think the school improvements are taking too much time in coming about."

The church authorities are now drawing up a suitable plan, and it is understood that as soon as this new plan reaches the Ministry there will be no more hold up.

At present the refuse has to be cleaned out and buried or burned on waste ground at the rear of the school.

Mr. L. Mellor, parish council representative on the board of managers, explained that the delay had been unavoidable. The church authorities had submitted a plan to the Ministry of Education who are footing nearly the whole bill. But because it did not come up to ministry standards it had been turned down.

Colton Parish Council

The initial meeting of Colton Parish Council was held in the Reading Room on Tuesday last week when Mr. Fred Hardcastle the retiring chairman took the chair till the election of the new chairman, and welcomed the one new member, Mr. George F. Upton.

It was unanimously agreed that Mr. Hardcastle be elected for a second year of office. He expressed his thanks for continued confidence in him, and said he would do his best in the interests of all. Mr. A. N. Felton was re-elected vice chairman.

Regarding the Trustees to represent the Parish Council on the Reading Room Management, Mr. Hardcastle felt it would be unwise to change these in the present circumstances, and it was unanimously agreed that Mr. Hardcastle and Mr. Luke Mellor be re-elected as representative to the School Management, the chairman expressing the hope that Mr. Mellor would press for the commencement of an improvement scheme to the school. Mr. Upton supported these remarks, and Mr. Mellor said he should continue to press for action. Mr. Hardcastle was re-appointed Snow Clearing (Contingency) Supervisor.

It was decided to press for a meeting of the Reading Room management at an early date. An obstruction in the Morteon Brook was reported and it was agreed to arrange a meeting on the spot with the person concerned and any interested members of the Parish Council.

At the conclusion of the meeting Mr. Hardcastle being the new parish representative to Lichfield R.D.C. said he hoped members would make it known that it was the usual thing for any complaints from the public to be made to the representative before writing to the R.D.C. Mr. Hardcastle's remarks arose from ill feeling regarding recent allocation of Council Houses.

COLTON Parish Council

Parish Council.—The initial meeting of Colton parish council was held in the Reading room on May 23. Mr Fred Hardcastle, the retiring chairman, took the chair till the election of the new chairman, and welcomed the one new member, Mr George F. Upton.

Mr Hardcastle was elected for a second year of office, which, following a resolution made a few years since is the limit for one member to hold in succession.

Mr A. N. Felton was re-elected vice-chairman. Regarding the Trustees to represent the parish council on the Reading Room management, Mr Hardcastle expressed his opinion that it would be unwise to change these in the present unsatisfactory circumstances, and it was unanimously agreed that Mr. Hardcastle and Mr Luke Mellor be re-elected.

The same applies in the matter of the representative to the school management, and Mr Mellor was re-appointed to this body.

Mr Upton supported these remarks, and Mr Mellor said he should continue to press for matters to get moving in this scheme.

Mr Hardcastle was re-appointed snow clearing (contingency) supervisor. Representatives to attend the annual conference of the Staffordshire Parish Councils Association on June 17, will be, Mr Hardcastle, and provisionally, Mr Upton and Mr Mellor.

After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, it was decided to press for a meeting of the reading room management at an early date.

An obstruction in the Morteon Brook was reported and it was decided to arrange a meeting on the spot with the person concerned and any interested members of the Parish Council. Only a short discussion took place regarding the "Burial Ground" problem, there being no further development in this matter.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Mr Hardcastle, being the new parish representative to Lichfield Rural District Council, remarked that he

While paying a visit to Ru on Thursday evening last Mr. Frank William Coope Bank Top, Colton, was seriously ill and died in Ru Hospital.

Mr. Cooper who was 60 ye age, had been in indiff health following a serious i last August and had been u to follow his usual employ as a lorry driver for the Midlands Gas Board. He also the post of verger and cle St. Mary's Church, Colto successor to his father, the Mr. Ezra Cooper, who serv this capacity for 12 years. carried out the duties thoroughly. It was to his fa memory that Mr. Cooper ha electric organ blower install the church.

He was a member of the as a boy and for a long had been on the Parochial C Council, and was a represen to the Ruridecanal Confe At one time Mr. Cooper served for a few years o parish council, and as a T of the Colton Parish Lands

He leaves a widow and daughters.

Colton funeral

The funeral of Mr. F William Cooper of Bank Colton, took place at St. M Church, Colton, on Friday, service being taken by the Re the Rev. A. S. Towlson. Mrs E. Finnemore was organist, cross bearer was Mr. D. Waters (lay reader and h master), the churchwar staves being carried by M Tittensor (Rector's warden) Mr. W. A. Norman (deputy ples warden). Mr. A. I. D. Co was Acting Clerk and Verge

Those present at the fu were: Mrs. A. Cooper (wid the Misses Marjorie and Dor Cooper (daughters); Miss A Blease (cousin); Mr. and Mr Bridgwood (cousin); Mrs. A. ris and Son-in-law, and Mr Sartain (sister-in-law).

The West Midlands Gas B were represented by Mrs. Tn son and Messrs. Fones, Grif Greensil and Hulme. Also pr were Miss M. M. Connor, Mr. Mrs. F. Day, Mr. and Mrs Taylor, Mrs. V. M. Towlson and Mrs. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. F Hardcastle, Mr. and Mrs. C Cooper (Blithfield), Mr. and Mr T. Preston, Mr. J. H. Toy, Mr B. M. Ravenscroft, also represen ing Mr. C. J. Ravenscroft, Mr M. A. MacPherson, Mrs. J. Hooley, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Pa Mr. B. Bettson, Mr. A. N. Felto Mrs. H. A. Williscroft, Mr. J. Best also representing Mrs. Be Mrs. E. M. Challinor, Miss Myatt, Mrs. E. Griffin, Mrs. M Cooper, Mr. W. Leeke, Mrs. C. Deacon, Mrs. I. V. Collins, M L. Hall, Mr. and Mrs. E. Brou ton, Mr. and Mrs. R. Martin, M C. N. L. Williscroft, Mr. C. Ho kiss, Mr. R. Morrall, and a of the senior pupils of Col School.

Hercury 9/6/61

Colton funeral tributes to Mr. F. W. Cooper

The funeral service of Mr. Frank William Cooper, cle of Colton, took plac Church, on Friday, ducted by the Rect S. Towlson, and th Mrs. G. E. Finnemo ment followed in th tery.

Mr. D E. Wate bearer and the staves were carried by Mr. J. Tittensor and Mr. W. A. Norman. Mr. A. I. D. Collins was acting clerk and verger

The bearers were Messrs. D. G. and L. Mellor, J. H. Hooley and R. W. Parr.

The mourners included the wife, the Misses M. and D. Cooper (daughters), Miss A. L. Blease and Mr. and Mrs. F. Bridgwood (cousins), Mrs. A. Harris and Mrs. T. Sartain (sister-in-law).

The West Midlands Gas Board were represented by Mrs. M. Thompson and Messrs. D. Greensill, Fones, Griffiths and Hulme.

Also present were Mrs. M. M. Conner, Mr. and Mrs. F. Day, Mr. and Mrs. F. Taylor, Mrs. V. M. Towlson, Mrs. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. F. Hardcastle, Mr. and Mrs. G. Cooper (Blithfield), Mr. and Mrs. T. Preston, Mr. J. H. Toy, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, Mrs. M. A. Macpherson, Mrs. J. H. Hooley, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Parr, Mr. B. Bettson, Mrs. A. W. Felton, Mrs. H. A. Williscroft, Mr. V. A. Best, Mrs. E. M. Challinor, Miss E. Myatt, Mrs. E. Griffin, Mrs. M. Cooper, Mr. W. Leeke, Mrs. C. A. Deacon, Mrs. I. V. Collins, Mrs. L. Hall, Mr. and Mrs. E. Broughton, Mr. and Mrs. R. Martin, Miss C. N. L. Williscroft, Mr. C. Hodgkiss, Mr. R. Morrall and some of the senior pupils of St. Mary's School.

Among the floral tributes were wreaths from the following: The Rector and Churchwardens; Parochial Church Council; Parish Council; Mothers' Union; Children of Colton School; Rugeley and Cannock Districts, West Midlands Gas Board, and Transport workmates, W.M.G.B., Cannock.

COLTON ADVERTISER 29/6/61

Outing.—A party of 17 made the journey from Colton to Lichfield for the Stafford Archdeaconry Mothers Union Festival in the Cathedral.

Mothers' Union members from a corners of the Archdeaconry attende and 66 banners were carried at th commencement and conclusion of the service (Mrs J. L. Taylor being the Colton banner bearer). After the banner procession the service commenced with the commissoning of four new diocesan speakers by the Lord Bishop of Lichfield.

Produce Guild.—A few members of Colton Village Produce Guild are again giving of their time. hard at work in parts of the village, such as round the War Memorial and the strip of ground along the side of the Reading Room for "Best Kept Village Competition."

News f

Funeral.—The funeral of Mr. Frank William Cooper, of Bank Top Colton, took place at St. Mary's Church, Colton. The service was taken by the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson Mrs G. E. Finnemore was organist.

Bearers were Messrs D. G. and Luke Mellor, J. H. Hooley, and R. W. Parr.

Present were: Mrs A. Cooper, widow; the Misses Marjorie and Dorothy Cooper, daughters; Miss A. L. Blease, cousin; Mr and Mrs F. Bridgwood (cousin); Mrs A. Harris and son-in-law, and Mrs T. Sartain (sisters-in-law); the West Midlands Gas Board rep. by Mrs Thompson and Messrs. Fones, Griffiths, Greensil and Hulme.

Also present were Miss M. M. Conner, Mr and Mrs F. Day, Mr. and Mrs F. Taylor, Mrs. V. M. Towlson and Mrs Martin, Mr and Mrs F. Hardcastle, Mr and Mrs G. Cooper (Blithfield), Mr and Mrs T. Preston, Mr J. H. Toy, Mrs B. M. Ravenscroft and Mrs M. A. Macpherson, Mrs J. H. Hooley, Mr and Mrs W. J. Parr. Mr B. Bettson, Mr A. N. Felton, Mrs H. A. Williscroft, Mr J. A. Best also rep. Mrs Best, Mrs E. M. Challinor, Miss E. Myatt, Mrs E. Griffin, Mrs M. Cooper, Mr W. Leeke, Mrs C. A. Deacon, Mrs I. V. Collins, Mrs L. Hall, Mr and Mrs E. Broughton, Mr and Mrs R. Martin, Miss C. N. L. Williscroft, Mr C. Hodgkiss, Mr R. Morrall, and a number of the senior pupils of Colton School.

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COL. H. H. HUTCHINSON

"MORE than one teacher has learned from him that schooling is not solely a question of giving and receiving orders, but rather the influence for good that the mature can exercise on the immature, and that patience and tolerance, allied with firmness are better qualities in a teacher than mere self-assertiveness." This was a tribute paid to Lieut.-Col. Herbert Heatley Hutchinson on his retirement from the headship of Rugeley Grammar School in 1952.

Colonel Hutchinson saw the Grammar School more than double itself in boys and in buildings during his 32 years at School House. So attached was he to the school, that on retirement, he built himself a house, Rosehill, just across the road.

Born at Pegswood, Northumberland, in 1886, he was educated at Rutherford College, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and took his Master of Science degree at King's College, Durham University. He took a post as science master at Lord William's School, Thame, in 1907, and two years later was appointed head of the mathematics and science department at Colston School, Bristol, where he remained, apart from war service, until coming to Rugeley Grammar School in 1920.

Having had experience in the O.T.C., he was commissioned in the Royal Artillery on the outbreak of war and served in France and Belgium, being awarded the Military Cross, the Croix de Guerre and the Belgian Chevalier de l'Odre de la Couromne in 1917. He was also mentioned in dispatches.

The "years between" saw his family and his school growing, his life's work being consolidated. Then came 1939, another war, and his first activity was taking on the duties of billeting officer for the West Bromwich evacuees.

[redacted] a company of Local Defence Volunteers, the Home Guard. He held the rank of soon transferred to Group Headquarters s second-in-command of the Stafford, k group.

chinson was appointed a county magis- last time on Thursday of last week, on 75th birthday. He has served on the eal Committee and the County Confirm- Compensation Committee.

As headmaster, he was trustee of a number of local charities and since retirement he has been president of the Old Rugeleians' Association. As an ex-Serviceman, he was active in the British Legion, and was president of the Rugeley branch for a number of years. A Freemason, he is a Past Provincial Grand Warden and is secretary of St. Augustine's Lodge, of which he was Worshipful Master in 1929.

Always keen on sport, he was a founder member of Rugeley Badminton Club and has taken part in Association and Rugby football, cricket, tennis, hockey and golf, while in another sphere he was a competition motor cyclist and fond of motoring.

Recently, he came out of retirement twice. First, in 1957 to take charge of a school for Hungarian refugees at the former R.A.F. camp, where he was surprised at the wonderful

3/7/14 COLTON

Mothers' Union. — Only twelve members of Colton Mothers' Union were able to attend the Rugeley Deanery Festival which this year was held at St. Luke's Church, Cannock. Colton joined with Colwich members (who were accompanied by their Vicar, the Rev. B. Matthews) in transport arrangements. Ten banners were in the processions, Mrs. J. L. Taylor being the Colton banner bearer. The service was conducted by the Rev. H. L. Townshend, Vicar of Cannock and Rural Dean.

Part of the collection is to go to the Mothers' Union work overseas.

Tea was provided by the Cannock members, who were thanked by the Rev. C. J. A. Payton, Vicar of Abbots Bromley, whose wife will be the new presiding member for the Deanery.

Collection.—The recent house-to-house collections undertaken in the Colton Parish for the British Empire Cancer Campaign, which is a Women's Institute "good deed," organised by Mrs. J. L. Taylor, has resulted in £6 13s. being sent to this effort. Collectors were Mrs. I. Preston, Mrs. P. M. Buckley, and Mrs. J. E. Norman.

Produce Guild.—At the July meeting of the Village Produce Guild held in the Reading Room, Mr. J. H. Toy (chairman) presided and extended a welcome to Mr. Stone, a visitor from New Zealand. County events were announced.

The dinner takes place this year at the Crispin Hotel, Stafford.

As regards the suggested county quiz, Colton members feel they should "try their luck" in the first rounds with the other local guilds. Volunteers to take part in the digging match were asked for, Mr. T. Preston and Mr. Nicholls expressed their willingness to compete. A letter was read regarding the annual conference of the National Federation at Roehampton, London, at which Mr. S. J. Timmins will be showing Colton films, the letter stated that if Mr. Timmins did not wish to avail himself of the expenses paid accommodation, another member could do as the delegate from Colton. Mrs. S. M. Toy expressed her desire to go in this capacity and Miss D. M. Jones (hon. secretary) said she would also be attending as a visitor.

A letter from Mr. Mr. D. M. Gibb of the Rural Community Council, invited interested persons to a meeting at Yoxall, re. Village Halls, etc.

The date fixed for the garden competition is July 29th, this date being suitable to the judges, Mr. F. W. Farrer and Mr. R. K. Mowforth, who will be entertained afterwards at Hamley Lodge, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Toy.

Mrs. I. Preston, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft and Mrs. E. Preston agreed to help Mrs. Toy.

The main feature of the meeting was the Rose show. The judges were Mr. F. H. Bannister, and Mr. A. W. Meddings, who awarded the prizes for H.T. roses to Mr. Nicholls, Mrs. E. H. Tabernor and Mrs. E. Preston for floribundas, Mr. W. Preston, Miss Mary Preston and Mrs. D. Timmins. Mr. Bannister, a keen rose grower, invited questions, and gave a few remarks about rose growing. Mrs. Toy proposed a vote of thanks to the judges. Tea hostesses were Mrs. I. Preston, Mrs. E. Preston and Miss Mary Preston.

14/7 CO

KEW [redacted] and friends of [redacted] Produce Guild [redacted] trip to Kew Gardens [redacted] real summer's day for [redacted] visit. For many it was [redacted] first run along the M.1. On arrival at Kew, the company were met at the main gates by Mr. Trevor Preston, eldest son of the Guild's Vice-Chairman, who conducted them round the gardens and glasshouses, all of which were voted most interesting and well worth the visit. Mr. Trevor Preston, who is at Kew as a student, is at present foreman in the tropical pits and in the autumn goes to Reading University for his final training, after which he may get a post at Kew.

MOTHERS' UNION. — Twelve members of Colton Mothers' Union attended the Rugeley Deanery Festival at St. Luke's Church, Cannock, on Wednesday last week. They joined with Colwich members who were accompanied by their Vicar (the Rev. B. Matthews). Ten banners were carried in procession, that of Colton M.U. being carried by Mrs. J. L. Taylor. The service was conducted by the Rev. H. L. H. Townshend (Vicar of Cannock and Rural Dean), and the address was given by the Rev. R. A. Cason (Vicar of Brereton). Lessons were read by the Vicar of Abbots Bromley and the Vicar of Great Wyrley. Part of the collection was for Mothers' Union work overseas. Tea was provided by the Cannock members, who were thanked by the Rev. C. J. A. Payton (Vicar of Abbots Bromley), whose wife is to be the new Presiding member for the Deanery. Mrs. M. Arnold, who has completed nine years in this office, addressed the members.

PRODUCE GUILD. — Mr. J. H. Toy presided at the July meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild and welcomed Mr. Stone, a visitor from New Zealand. The main feature of the meeting was the rose show. Judges were Mr. F. H. Bannister and Mr. A. W. Meddings. The prizes for hybrid tea roses went to Mr. Nicholls, Mrs. E. H. Tabernor and Mrs. E. Preston, and for floribundas to Mr. W. Preston, Miss Mary Preston and Mrs. D. Timmins. Mr. Bannister, a keen rose grower, invited questions and gave a few hints on rose growing. Mrs. Toy thanked the judges. Tea hostesses were Mrs. I. Preston, Mrs. E. Preston and Miss Mary Preston.

FOR CANCER CAMPAIGN. —The recent house-to-house collection in Colton parish for the British Empire Cancer Campaign — which is a Women's Institute "good deed" — was organised by Mrs. J. L. Taylor and realised £6 13s. The collectors were Mrs. I. Preston, Mrs. P. M. Buckley and Mrs. J. E. Norman.

Parents attend open day at Colton School

TIMES 22/7/61

An open day held at Colton Church School on Thursday last week was arranged by headmaster, Mr. D. E. Wa assisted by Mrs. D. Shaw and M. S. Toy. It was well atte by parents and friends. showed much interest in the c ren's work.

A display of dancing was by Mrs. Toy's class, and

27/7/61 Colton M.U.

For the July meeting the members of Colton Mothers' Union and friends went to Wharf Cottage at the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Best. Transport was provided to take the party to and from the Wharf by Mr. Best. Mr

Village hall for Colton is mooted

COLTON Village Produce Guild is considering calling for a public meeting, to test the feeling of the whole parish, regarding the erection of a village hall. Already they have a possible site in mind.

The matter was discussed at a meeting held in the Reading Room on Thursday of last week, when Mr. J. H. Toy (chairman) presided. A letter was read from Mr. D. M. Gibb, secretary of the Rural Community Council, inviting interested persons to go to a meeting about village halls at Yoxall.

This led to various opinions being expressed regarding the views of people in the parish, and it was considered advisable that a public meeting should be called to *test the feeling of the whole parish.*

The main feature of the meeting was a rose show, but owing to the season this was not so well supported as had been hoped, though some lovely blooms were exhibited.

Mr. F. H. Bannister and Mr. A. W. Meddings were the judges and they awarded prizes for hybrid tea roses to Mr. Nicholls, Mrs. E. H. Tabernor and Mrs. E. Preston, and for floribundas, to Mr. W. Preston, Miss Mary Preston and Mrs. D. Timmins.

Mr. Bannister, a keen rose grower, invited questions and made a few remarks on rose growing.

Mrs. Toy proposed the vote of thanks to the judges.

Mr. Toy welcomed to the meeting Mr. Stone, a visitor from New Zealand.

A letter from Rodbaston Farm Institute congratulated those members who took part in the exhibition at the food production rally in June.

County events discussed included the annual dinner to be held at the Crispin Hotel, Stafford; the county quiz, in which Colton members felt they should "try their luck" along with other local guilds; and the digging match, in which Mr. T. Preston and Mr. Nicholls expressed their willingness to compete.

Garden competition

A letter was read regarding the annual conference at Roehampton of the National Federation, concerning the showing there of Colton films by Mr. S. J. Timmins. The letter stated that if Mr. Timmins did not wish to avail himself of the paid accommodation another member could do so as the delegate from Colton, Mrs. M. S. Toy expressed her willingness to attend in this capacity, and Miss D. M. Jones (secretary) said she would also be attending as a visitor.

It was announced that the garden competition would be held on July 29, and the judges, Mr. F. W. Farrer and Mr. R. K. Mowforth, would be entertained at Hamley Lodge by Mr. and Mrs. Toy. Mrs. I. Preston, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft and Mrs. E. Preston agreed to help Mrs. Toy.

It was decided, on the suggestion of Mr. Toy, to hold a harvest supper (with home produce) during October, in place of the normal meeting. The hope was expressed that there would be good support for the horticultural show to be held in Colton on August 19.

Tea hostesses were Mrs. I. and Mrs. E. Preston and Miss Mary *Preston.*

CURE FOR APATHY SETS POSER

An area conference for village hall committees was held at Yoxall on Thursday of last week under the auspices of Staffordshire Rural Community Council. Mrs. D. M. Whitmore (Denstone) was chairman, and among the villages represented were Colton and Etching Hill.

The conference members were welcomed by Councillor C. A. Thorley, chairman of Tutbury Rural Council, and many questions were answered by Mr. D. M. Gibb (county secretary) on methods of raising money, new ideas for refreshments, leadership, how to overcome apathy in a village, grants, committee work, etc.

No one seemed able to give a satisfactory answer to the question posed by Mrs. M. S. Toy (Colton): "How to overcome apathy?"

Sports day at Colton

Weather was favourable for the Sports Day at Colton St. Mary's School. The organiser and starter was Mr. D. E. Waters, and the judges were Mrs. D. and Miss G. Shaw.

Prizewinners were: — Straight races: Pamela Jones, Philippa Upton, Dennis Allerton, Ian Evans, Pauline Haycock, Stanley Hawthorn, Judith Norman, Peter Simms, Roger Bannister and Susan Vernon.

Donkey races: Dennis Allerton, and Philip Atkinson, Ian Evans and Vernon Norman, Nigel Knight and John Curtis, Glynn Sargeant and Ian Myatt, Philip Deacon and Peter Simms.

Three-legged races: Pamela Jones and Dianne Grimley, Shirley Tittensor and Patricia Shipley, Susan Sparks and Carol Wisdom, Catherine Smith and Melanie Logan.

Obstacle races: Paul Nicholls, *Ian Cooper, Brian Nicholls,* Stephen Smith, Patricia Shipley, Glynn Sargeant, Pearl Haynes and Melanie Logan.

Skipping races, Christine Bennett, Aldo Montecoli, Carol Matthews and Angela Taylor.

Straight and bunny hop races, Aldo Montecoli, Delia Knight, Carol Matthews, Judy Evans, Graham Timmins, Aldo Montecoli, Elaine Leek, Glenis Jones, Carol Matthews and Roland Richardson.

Visitors' race: Dorothy Curtis, Kevin Waters, Philippa Timmins, Gillian Rowe and Ian Sparks.

Parents' race: Mrs. M. E. Corden.

Tug-of-War: Mrs. M. S. Toy's team.

Refreshments were served by Mrs. P. L. Bannister, Mrs. D. M. Preston, Mrs. K. Haynes, Mrs. N. Devall and Mrs. P. M. Buckley.

Colton village hall proposal

COLTON Parish Council has decided to seek more information from the Village Produce Guild before considering calling a public meeting to discuss the provision of a village hall for Colton.

RE-TIMING COLTON BUS UNPOPULAR

A proposal by the Green Bus Company to alter the timing of the Tuesday mid-day bus to Colton was not recived favourably by Colton Parish Council at their monthly meeting.

The company is seeking approval to time the departure half an hour earlier, and councillors felt that this would inconvenience Colton people as it would not allow shoppers sufficient time in Rugeley. If an alteration were necessary, they felt it should be a little later.

COLTON PARISH COUNCIL

At Colton Parish Council meeting held in the Reading Room on Wednesday last week the chairman (Mr. Fred Hardcastle) presided.

Following a meeting on the site of "The Green" by the Moreton Brook on June 8, it was decided the Parish Council were grateful for the offer of Mr. J. C. Price of Bellamour Lodge, to seed down the green, and generally put it in order, including the laying of a hard surface for the public right of way. After this was carried out the parish council would in future see that the ground is maintained.

A letter was read from Lichfield Rural District Council saying the Green 'Bus Service wished to alter the time of the Tuesday morning mid-day 'bus to Colton, making this 'bus earlier by about half an hour. It was felt that if this took place it would be most inconvenient to Colton people, who would not have time to do their shopping. If this service must be altered at all, it was felt it should be a little later than at present.

Another letter from the R.D.C. asked the Council for suggestions of a suitable name for the new road to the Council Houses at present being erected: "Manor Way" was agreed on.

Mr. G. F. Upton agreed to fill

Councillor F. Hardcastle (chairman) presided at the council's meeting at which it was decided to accept the offer of Mr. J. C. Price, of Bellamour Lodge, to s the green near the brook bri and to lay a hard surface on public right-of-way over ground. The parish council wo then be responsible for mai nance.

Regarding an obstruction Moreton Brook it was decide wait for a year to see if a mo cation was successful.

The council was informed of dangerous length on the Rugel Blithbury road had been defe for consideration next year.

The council decided to sug Manor Way as the name fo new road to the council house

Councillor G. F. Upton agree fill the vacancy on the Col Parochial Charities Trust, cre by the resignation of the Rev S. Towlson.

The clerk, Mr. S. J. Timm was instructed to inquire who responsible for the repair of Lane and the road leading to Martlin Cottages. He was also structed to remind the Co Council that they agreed s years ago to replace the bri bridge over Moreton Brook, the Parchfields.

COLTON

"THE GREEN."—At the monthly meeting of Colton Parish Council it was stated that the Council has gratefully accepted the offer of Mr. J. C. Price, of Bellamour Lodge, to seed down the area by the Moreton Brook bridge known as "The Green," Colton, and generally put it in order, including the laying of a hard surface for the public right of way over this ground. It was agreed that, in future, the Council be responsible for the main-

COLTON

Farm Visit.—About 14 membe of Colton Village Produce Guild h an enjoyable evening when th visited Bates Farms, Maer, at t invitation of Mr. J. H. Cooke. Th were also pleased that Mr. J. Jones, who was county chairman the time Colton Guild was form and along with Mrs. J. Hillier g help in the formation of the gu had been invited to meet them aga

First on the agenda was a t of the garden, milking parlour, fa buildings and poultry. After wh the party loaded up on a lorry a were driven round the extensive fa lands by Mr. Cooke. Afterwards a meal was prepared by Mrs. Cooke and her daughter. A vote of thanks to the Cooke family for their hospitality was proposed by Mr. J. H. Toy. Colton people were delighted to have the chance of seeing the village of Maer, the winner in the

COLTON

Dance.—A successful dance was held in the Reading Room on the 25th August. The room had been very gaily decorated with fairy lights etc. by Mr. J. C. Price and his employee's. The dance was organised by the Management Committee of the Reading Room, in an effort to help get the affairs of the Room solvent, and do necessary repairs. The chairman of the parish council, Mr. F. Hardcastle who is a member of the management committee said this week. 'In the absence of any other Hall at the present, the Room must be maintained and to a certain extent improved. The public must have somewhere to hold meetings and functions of various kinds". He added that he was in favour of calling a public meeting, re the village hall question when all the facts would have to be put before the public, and if after full consideration and debate a new hall was repected by majority vote then ideas for the present room would need to go on. The other members of the Committee of Management are Mr. Luke Mellor, who like Mr. Hardcastle represents the Parish Council, the people's church warden, Mr. B. Maurice Williscroft, Mr. J. C. Price as owner of Bellamour lands and the Rector, Rev. A. S. Towlson. Mr Hardcastle thought this last dance better attended than the pervious one. Al Robinson's band provided the music, and spot prizes were given. Winning admission ticket numbers were won by Mrs. J. Lillicoo, and Leslie Collins, and competition prizes went to Mr. R. Martin (bottle of sherry) and Mrs. P. M Buckley (parcel of groceries). Mr. M. Williscroft was doorkeeper, and refreshments were in the charge of Mrs. H. A. Williscroft and Mrs. Buckley.

MR. J. A. BEST

STILL very active in spite of his 77 years, Mr. John Arrowsmith Best enjoys life to the full at his canalside haven, Wharf Cottage, Bellamour, where he has lived with his wife for seven years in their second retirement.

Born at Handsworth, he was educated at Shrewsbury School and was one of the first eight members of the Officers' Training Corps there. Keen on sport, he specialised in cricket, running and shooting for the school.

A jeweller by trade, he spent most of his life in the family business at Birmingham, retiring to a farm at Colton just before World War II.

He became keen on golf and was captain of Handsworth Golf Club and match secretary for many years. He is particularly proud of a golfing medal won at Harlech in 1900. Motor-cycling and motoring were among his pastimes, and he took out his first licence in 1904.

When he was 50, he began to take an interest in mountaineering and until recent years, enjoyed rock climbing. This led up to a new hobby of making relief maps, with the aid on a device he invented himself, plus many climbs to the highest peaks to ensure that his interpretation of contours was accurate.

He has made many maps, but has given most of them away, the latest being the model of Cannock Chase, which he presented the Friends of Cannock Chase and which is on exhibition at Rugeley Library. Some of his relief maps are on show in Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. Others are at Birmingham University — many of them geological models.

Through these maps Mr. Best became interested in geology and he is now a member of the Geological Association. Also a keen nature lover, he watches and logs birds and other life from his home near the Trent meadows. He is a member of the Landor Society and was recently made a honorary life member of Rugeley and District Field Club in recognition of his hospitality to the club.

He took over the secretaryship of the Association of Friends of Cannock Chase during the absence of Dr. P. J. Jennings in Canada, but hopes he can soon be relieved of this task, for the work is growing beyond his capacity. At 77 he says he is too old to look after a society with more than 500 members! He is a member of the Committee of the Stafford branch of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England.

He is also interested in photography and has 14 years' successive cine films of Colton church fetes. He has been secretary of Colton Parochial Church Council for 15 years, having retired recently. His main task of late seems to be receiving and entertaining parties at his home and giving them motor boat trips on the canal.

Mr. Best joined the Army Service Corps as a Territorial in 1909 and served through World War I in France and Belgium, was awarded the Military Cross and was mentioned in dispatches. He believes he may be unique in having risen

COLTON

Parish Council.— A meeting of the Colton Parish Council took place in the Reading Room on July 19th. The chairman (Mr. Fred Hardcastle) presided. After the minutes of the last meeting had been read and confirmed, matters arising from these came up for discussion, the first being the area of ground known as "The Green" by the Moreton brook bridge.

Following a meeting on the site on June 8th, it was decided that the parish council were grateful for the offer of Mr. J. C. Price of Belamour Lodge to seed down the green, and the laying of a hard surface for the public right of way over this ground. It was agreed that after this is carried out the parish council in future see that this ground is maintained. A lengthy discussion took place regarding the reported obstruction in the brook at the last meeting. It was agreed to give a trial for twelve months and if not successful the gentleman in question be notified to this effect.

Regarding the question of the length of road by the houses, "The Haven" and "Ainsdale," on the Rugeley to Blithbury Road, stated to be dangerous, a letter was read stating that this was deferred for consideration next year.

A letter from Lichfield Rural District Council saying the Green Bus Service wished to alter the time of the Tuesday morning mid-day bus to Colton, making this bus earlier by about half-an-hour. It was felt that if this takes place it will be most inconvenient to Colton people; they would not have time to do their shopping.

If this service must be altered at all, it was felt it should be a little later than at present.

Another letter from the R.D.C. asked the council for suggestions of a suitable name for the new road to the council houses at present being erected. "Manor Way" was agreed on.

Mr. G. F. Upton agreed to fill the vacant place on the Colwich Parochial Charity Trust, the Rev. A. S. Towlson having resigned.

After the chairman announced that he had received a letter from the Village Produce Guild recalling a public meeting on the Village Hall question. It was decided that a further letter would be an advantage before this meeting is called.

It was decided the clerk enquire who is responsible for the repair of the Mill Lane, and also of the road leading to the Martlin Cottages, and also to take up again the question of the replacement of the broken-down bridge over the Moreton Brook at the Parchfields. This the county council had agreed to do some years since.

Mothers' Union.— For the July meeting the members of Colton Mothers' Union and friends went to Wharf Cottage at the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Best.

Transport was provided to take the party to and from the wharf by Mr. Best, Mr. B. Bettson, Mr. F. Taylor, Mr. A. N Felton, Mr. T. Preston and Mr. M. Williscroft. Mrs. J. L. Taylor conducted a short service.

Afterwards half the guests went on a boat trip on the Canal to Wolseley Bridge. Following tea the rest of the company had their trip on the water. Mrs. Taylor thanked Mr and Mrs. Best for their hospitality.

Dance aids Colton Reading Room fund

Organised by the management committee, a dance held in Colton Reading Room was in aid of Reading Room funds. The room

Weather [illegible] **sports day** [illegible] **School on** [illegible] **last week when** [illegible] **starter was Mr.** [illegible] **and the judges were Mrs.** [illegible] **Miss G. Shaw.**

Prize winners:—**Straight Races**, Pamela Jones, **Philippa Upton**, Dennis Allerton, **Ian Evans**, **Pauline** Haycock, **Stanley Hawthorn**, Judith Norman, **Peter Simms**, Roger Bannister and **Susan** Vernon; Donkey Races, **Dennis** Allerton and **Philip Atkinson**, Ian Evans and Vernon **Norman**, Nigel Knight and **John Curtis**, Glynn Sargeant and **Ian Myatt**, Philip Deacon and **Peter Simms**.

Three-legged Races, **Pamela** Jones and Dianne Grimley, **Shirley** Tittensor and Patricia **Shipley**, Susan Sparks and **Carol** Wisdom, Catherine Smith and Melanie Logan; Obstacle Races, Paul Nicholls, Ian Cooper, **Brian** Nicholls, Stephen Smith, **Patricia** Shipley, Glynn Sargeant, **Pearl** Haynes and Melanie Logan.

Skipping Races, Christine **Bennett**, Aldo Montecoli, **Carol Matthews** and Angela Taylor. **Straight** and Bunny Hop Races, **Aldo** Montecoli, Delia Knight, **Carol** Matthews, Judy Evans, **Graham** Timmins, Aldo Montecoli, **Elaine** Leeke, Glenis Jones, Carol **Matthews** and Roland Richardson.

Visitors' Race, Dorothy Curtis, Kevin Waters, Philippa Timmins, Gillian Rowe and Ian Sparks. Parents' Race, Mrs. M. E. Corden. Tug of War, Mrs. M. S. Toy's team.

Refreshments were served by Mrs. P. L. Bannister, Mrs. D. M. Preston, Mrs. K. Haynes, **Mrs. N.** Devall and **Mrs. P. M. Buckley.**

A VILLAGE HALL FOR COLTON?

A successful dance was held in Colton Reading Room on Friday, the room having been gaily decorated with fairy lights, etc., by Mr. J. C. Price and his employees. The dance was organised by the management committee of the Reading Room, in an effort to get the affairs of the room solvent, and do necessary repairs.

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr. F. Hardcastle (who is a member of the management committee) said this week "in the absence of any other hall at the present, the room must be maintained and to a certain extent improved. The public must have somewhere to hold meetings and functions of various kinds." He added that he was in favour of calling a public meeting, to discuss the village hall question, when all the facts would be put before the public, and if (after full consideration and debate), a new hall was rejected by majority vote, then ideas for the present Room would need to go on.

The other members of the Committee of Management are Mr. Luke Mellor, who like Mr. Hardcastle represents the Parish Council, the People's Church Warden, Mr. B. Maurice Williscroft, Mr. J. C. Price, as owner of Bellamour lands, and the Rector, Rev. A. S. Towlson.

Mr. Hardcastle thought this last dance better attended than the previous one. Al Robinson's band provided the music, and spot prizes were given. Winning admission ticket numbers went to Mrs. J. Lilicoo and Leslie Collins, and competition prizes to Mr. R. Martin (sherry) and Mrs. P. M. Buckley (groceries).

Mr. M. Williscroft [illegible]

TIMES? 34

Members of Colton Village Produce Guild pictured at Hamley Lodge on Saturday evening after the presentation of awards for the best kept garden competition. Mr. F. H. Bannister, winner of both sections, is seen in the centre of the group.

COLTON GARDENER'S DOUBLE SUCCESS

COMPETITION was keen in the annual best kept gardens competition organised by Colton Village Produce Guild, and judged on Saturday, Mr. F. H. Bannister won both the ornamental and the vegetable sections.

The judges were Mr. F. W. Farrer (county chairman) and Mr. R. K. Mowforth, of the horticultural department at Rodbaston Farm Institute. They were met at Weetman's Bridge by Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Timmins, who escorted them round the gardens and again filmed the event.

Tea was served at Hamley Lodge, home of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Toy, when the company were joined by Mr. D. M. Gibb (county secretary) and his son, Christopher.

After the points had been totalled by the judges, Mr. Farrer thanked those who had helped in the competition and announced the winners. He expressed pleasure at visiting Colton guild members and their gardens for the third successive year. Competition had been very keen, he said, and in both sections there were ties for third place.

Mr. Gibb presented the awards as follows:— Ornamental section: 1, Mr. F. H. Bannister; 2, Mrs. S. J. Timmins; 3, Mr. J. A .Best and Mr. W. Preston (equal). Vegetable section: 1, Mr. F. H. Bannister; 2, Mr. T. Preston; 3, Mr. J. H. Toy and Mr. S. J. Timmins (equal).

Mr. Gibb complimented Mr. Timmins for his artistic work on the certificates.

Mr. Mowforth, expressing pleasure at his visits to Colton, stressed the importance of crop rotation.

Thanks were expressed to the the judges, Mr. Gibb, Mr. and Mrs. Toy and their helpers.

Colton's best kept gardens

MERCURY 4/8/61

One of the interesting events in the life of Colton Village Guild, the 'Best Kept Garden' competition, took place on Saturday, the Judges being Mr. F. W. Farrer, County Chairman of Village Produce Association, and Mr. R. K. Mowforth, Horticultural Department Rodbaston Farm Institute.

The judges were met at Weetmans Bridge by Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Timmins, who escorted them round the gardens, and again filmed the event. Tea was served at Hamley Lodge, when about 20 people were joined by Mr. D. M. Gibb (County Secretary Village Produce Association) and his son Christopher. The totalling up of points also took place at this stage, followed by Mr. J. H. Toy's few words of welcome, and the presentation of prize money and certificates. Mr. Farrer thanked Mr. and Mrs. Toy for their hospitality and Mr. & Mrs. Timmins for taking them round the gardens.

Mr. Farrer went on to announce and congratulate the winners and Mr. Gibb presented the awards to Ornamental section—1st—Mr. F. H. Bannister; 2nd—Mrs. S. J. Timmins; and 3rd (tie) Mr. J. A. Best and Mr. W. Preston. Vegetable section—1st—Mr. F. H. Bannister; 2nd—Mr. T. Preston; and 3rd (tie)—Mr. J. H. Toy and Mr. S. J. Timmins. Mr. Gibb thanked Mr. Timmins for his

Colton Guild members visit Maer

TIMES 12/8/61

Fourteen members of Colton Village Produce Guild visited Bates's Farm, Maer, on Thursday of last week, at the invitation of Mr. J. H. Cooke, of Maer Guild.

Mr. J. W. Jones, of Maer Guild, who was county chairman at the time Colton Guild was started, had been invited to meet them again.

After touring the garden, milking parlour, farm buildings and poultry houses, the visitors were driven round the farm by Mr. Cooke.

Returning to the farmhouse they found a meal awaiting them, prepared by Mrs. Cooke and her daughter, and a vote of thanks to the family was proposed by Mr. J. H. Toy (chairman).

The Colton people were delighted at having an opportunity to see the village of Maer, winner of the small village section of the Best Kept Village Competition.

COLTON VILLAGE PI
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ANNUAL SHOW of FL
and PRO

Advertiser COLTON 3/8/61

Village Guild. — "Best kept garden" competition was judged by Mr. F. W. Farrer, county chairman of village produce association, and Mr. R. K. Mowforth, horticultural department Rodbaston Farm Institute. The judges were met at Weetmans Bridge by Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Timmins, who escorted them round the various gardens, and again filmed the event.

Tea was served at Hamley Lodge, when the company were joined by Mr. D. M. Gibb (county secretary Village Produce Association) and his son Christopher. The totalling up of points also took place at this stage, then followed Mr. J. H. Toy's few words of welcome, and the presentation of prize money and certificates.

Mr. Farrer thanked Mr. and Mrs. Toy for their hospitality and Mr. and Mrs. Timmins for taking them round the gardens.

Mr. Farrer announced the winners and this year on the points being totalled up it was found that in both sections there were ties for third place. Mr. Farrer then called on Mr. Gibb to present the awards.

Ornamental section, Mr. F. H. Bannister, 2 Mrs. S. J. Timmins and 3 tie between Mr. J. A. Best and Mr. W. Preston; vegetable section, Mr. F. H. Bannister, 2nd Mr. T. Preston, and 3rd tie between Mr. J. H. Toy and Mr. S. J. Timmins. Mr. Gibb thanked Mr. Timmins for his artistic work on the certificates.

A vote of thanks to the judges, Mr. Gibb, Mr. and Mrs. Toy and their helpers was proposed by Mr. Timmins.

Colton. — The October meeting was held in the Reading Room, Mrs. I. Preston (President) presiding. She welcomed Mrs. Bigham and a friend as visitors and Mrs. D. Timmins as a new member. Mrs. V. Pratt agreed to attend the autumn Council meeting at Stafford. An interesting film show was given by Mr. J. A. Best assisted by Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Timmins. They were thanked by Mrs. M. L. Waters. Tea hostesses were Mrs. E. M. Sargeant, Mrs. D. M. Atkin, and Mrs. I. R. Brown. The stall was in

COLTON'S BEST-KEPT GARDENS

SENTINEL

Prize awards

Colton Village Guild held their best-kept garden competition on Saturday, the judges being Mr. F. W. Farrer (County Chairman of Village Produce Association) and Mr. R. K. Mowforth (Horticultural Department, Rodbaston Farm Institute).

The judges were met at Weetmans Bridge by Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Timmins, who escorted them round the various gardens, and also filmed the event.

Tea was served at Hamley Lodge, where the company (in all about 20 people) were joined by Mr. D. M. Gibb (County Secretary, Village Produce Association) and his son, Christopher. The totalling up of points also took place at this stage, as also did the presentation of prize money and certificates. Mr. Farrer thanked Mr. and Mrs. Toy for their hospitality.

Mr. Gibb presented the awards as follow:—Ornamental section: 1, F. H. Bannister; 2, Mrs. S. J. Timmins; 3 (tie), J. A. Best and W. Preston. Vegetable section: 1, F. H. Bannister; 2, T. Preston; 3 (tie), J. H. Toy and S. J. Timmins.

EKLY SENTINEL,

£130 PROFIT MADE

Colton Church garden party

25/8/61

A clear profit of around £130 was realised at the annual garden party in aid of the expenses account of Colton Parish Church.

Held in the Rectory Grounds, the event was opened by Mrs. H. B. Croft, of Cannock, who was introduced by Mr. D. E. Waters, deputising for the Rector (the Rev. A. S. Towlson), who was unavoidably absent.

Mrs. Croft, who was presented with a bouquet by Marilyn Collins and thanked by Mr. Maurice Williscroft (People's Warden and the Treasurer), also judged the fancy dress parade, the winners being: Girls: 1, Kathleen Norman (Japanese girl); 2, Glenys Jones (pins and needles); 3, Gwendoline Ravenscroft (Fuchsia girl); consolation, Helen Myatt, (a bride). Boys: 1, Lynn Peake (chimney sweep); 2, Ian Myatt (shepherd); 3, Kevin Waters (Pillar box); consolation, Nigel Knight (Colton menace).

During the evening there was a display of gymnastics by the Chase Health and Strength Club.

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guider, she is now a member of the Trefoil Guild. She and her sister are members of a local family with military tradition. Many townspeople will remember their grandfather, Mr. William Hollins, of Queen Street, who was a colour-sergeant in the 2nd Volunteer Battalion of the North Staffordshire Regiment.

He was also conductor of the Territorial Band in which his four sons played, also his son-in-law (the Wiliscroft's father). All of his sons took part in the 1914-18 war, in which he lost a son, grandson, and son-in-law.

* * *

Talking of changes of road names, did you notice the story in a daily newspaper this week, about a Virginia town called Tightsqueeze objecting to having its name changed by county officials to Fairview? They preferred the name which councillors thought ugly—and won their case.

...tember 1 and also an opinion on the "Brighter Rugeley" movement.

Regarding the latter, the vicar says that the urban council may feel it would be an unpopular move to give financial backing for this. "in which case one may assume that the public as represented by them, are not so desirous of seeing a Brighter Rugeley that they would be prepared to pay for it!

No one can deny that the "Sword" is full of news and views this month.

attempt to form his ...
not being able to do so. He ...
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The JUNIOR TIMES
by Uncle Tom

Hello Children.

Have you noticed how clean the air has been in the industrial parts of the Midlands during the past two weeks?

Of course some of you will have been away in parts of the country where the air is always clean. But here, in the area where there are a lot of factory chimneys, and many house chimneys too, the smoke makes the air very dirty for most of the year.

Then, during the industrial holiday fortnight, when most of the factories and foundries have closed, the smoke soon disappears. The views from places like Barr Beacos, Cannock Chase and Kinver Edge are so much better—if it is not too cloudy or wet!

It may be my imagination but the sun always seems warmer by the seaside and in the country. On holiday we seem to tan much more quickly

It may be that the smoke haze one has in industrial areas takes some of the power from the sunshine.

But the main reason why we go much browner on holiday than when we are at home, is that we spend so much more time out of doors. We are out for every possible minute of the day.

Then of course beside the sea we enjoy the salt air which also help to give us a healthy tan.

I hope those of you who have been away are back home with a good colour to show off to your friends.

Competitions

Seniors (aged 10-15 inclusive)—In the past, "Odd Man Out" competitions have always been very popular, so I am giving you another this week. In each group of four items listed below, you will find that one is outstandingly different in some way from the other three. All you have to do is to decide on the intruders and say why they are different.

1. Walsall, Bilston, Dudley, Wednesbury
2. Table-tennis, badminton, cricket, football
3. Wolf, lion, tiger, leopard.
4. Rembrant, Mozart, Raphael, Velasquez.
5. Ghana, Kenya, Rhodesia, Jamaica.
6. Carnation, wallflower, crocus, daffodil.
7. Linen, cotton, nylon, silk.
8. Violin, harp, 'cello, bassoon.

Make a very neat list of your answers, preferably on a postcard, and remember to add your name address and age.

Send your entry by Monday, August 21, to "Odd Man Out" Competition, Uncle Tom, "Times" Office, Bow Street, Rugeley. As usual there are up to four prizes of 5s each to be won.

Answers to the "Costumes" Competition are: 1, Holland; 2, Spain; 3, Scotland; 4, India; 5 Turkey; 6, Pacific Islands; 7, North America; 8, Japan.

Prizes of 5s. each go to: Beryl Simms (13), 52, Talbot Street, Rugeley; Robert Horton (10), Glan Hafren, Coley Lane, Little Haywood; Michael Childs (14), Model Cottage, Brereton, Rugeley; Wendy Edwards (14), Jubilee Street, Rugeley.

Juniors (aged under 10)—I wonder how well you know the names of the Books of the Bible. If you know them fairly well, you should find this week's competition spec...

SNOWCEM
R HOUSE TOO!

Doesn't a gleaming white house make a wonderful difference? Make up your mind to give your own house a well-deserved face lift—Snowcem it!

It's not expensive—and it's easy, too. Just mix Super Snowcem with water and away you go! Then you'll have a bright new house with a waterproof coat into the bargain!

SUPER
SNOWCEM
AND COLOUR CARD FROM
LANDS of Rugeley
Telephone 144

Norman. Mr. W. Norman (right

COLTON CHURCH GARDEN PARTY

Mercury 18/8/61

This year's Colton Garden Party in aid of the Church Expenses Account, held in the Rectory Grounds, had more favourable weather than last, only the short storm stopped business for a few minutes. The opener was Mrs. H. B. Croft of Cannock, who was introduced by Mr. D. E. Waters, deputising for the Rector the Rev. A. S. Towlson) saying Mrs. Croft needed no introduction to Mothers' Union members. Mrs. Croft was presented with a bouquet by Marilyn Collins. Mr. Maurice Williscroft (peoples warden and the treasurer), proposed the vote of thanks. Mrs. Croft judged the fancy dress parade for which the winners were: Girls, 1, Kathleen Norman (Japanese girl); 2, Glenys Jones (Pins and Needles); 3, Gwendoline Ravenscroft (Fushsia girl); consolation, Helen Myatt (A bride). Boys, 1, Lynn Peake (Chimney Sweep); 2, Ian Myatt (Shepherd); 3, Kevin Waters (Pillar Box); consolation, Nigel Knight (Colton Menace).

During the evening there was a display of gymnastics by the Chase Health and Strength Club. Stall holders were: Produce etc., Mrs. P. B. Best, Miss E. Rotchell, Mrs. G. Mellor and Mrs. Sheila Deacon; Cakes, Mrs. D. Timmins and Mrs. M. A. Westhorpe; China, Mrs. J. L. Taylor, Mrs. W. J. Fateh, Mrs. M. E. Mellor and Mrs. N. James; Miscellaneous, Mrs. F. W. Cooper and Miss D. A. Cooper; White Elephant, Mrs. May Cooper and Mrs. P. M. Buckley; Crinoline lady (handkerchiefs) Mrs. M. L. Waters; Bran tub and balloons, Mrs. Vera Collins; Ice Cream etc., Mr. Jack Brown; Teas, Mrs. H. A. Williscroft, Mrs. H. M. Felton, Mrs. M. S. Toy, Mrs. Ivy Preston, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, Mrs. E. Griffin, Mrs. P. L. Bannister, Mrs. G. E. Finnemore, and Mrs. M. E. Hibbs. Gate Keepers, Mr. A. N. Felton and Mr. T. Preston.

Side Shows, Hoopla, the choir; Roll Penny, Miss A. L. I. Hoare; Clock Golf, Miss D. M. Jones; Rifle Range, Mr. W. A. Norman; Coconut Shy, Mr. W. Bailey and Mr. Knight; Bowling, Mr. C. M. Boycott; Miniature Bowls, Mr. R. Martin; Schoela (Dutch Game), Mrs. M. Everall and Mr. P. Everall; Darts, Mr. W. Yeomans.

It is expected there will be a clear profit of around £130.

HELP FOR DEEP SEA FISHERMAN

21/10/61

COLTON

Advertiser 21/9/61

At the September meeting of Colton Women's Institute held in the Reading Room, vice-president Mrs M. S. Toy presided, and welcomed three visitors, Mrs Craddock, president of Slitting Mill W.I., Mrs D. Timmins, and the mother of Mrs Waters, who is on a visit from Yorkshire. The minutes were read and confirmed, and the County letter read.

Mrs Toy congratulated on behalf of the president, all winners at the annual show, and sincere thanks to the show committee.

Mr A. N. Felton (show treasurer) had sent the financial statement which was passed round for members' inspection. It was decided that an electric urn be bought instead of a kettle. Mrs Toy welcomed Mrs Doyles of the bread advisory service, who gave a talk and passed on bread recipes, also inviting questions. Members' thanks to Mrs Doyles were expressed by Mrs D. M. Atkin, seconded by Mrs P. L. Bannister.

Tea hostesses were Mrs M. L. Waters, Mrs B. M. Ravenscroft, and Mrs H. A. Williscroft. The mystery prize and also the competition prize for "apple tart on a saucer" went to Mrs M. G. Bennett. It was announced that next month Mr J. A. Best will be showing films of local interest.

Colton faces reading room alternatives

TIMES 2/9/61

A dance was held in Colton Reading Room on Friday, the room being gaily decorated for the occasion. Al Robinson's band provided the music and competition prizes were given to Mr. R. Martin (bottle of sherry) and Mrs. P. M. Buckley (groceries). Winning admission ticket numbers were held by Mrs. J. Lilicoo and Leslie Collins. The doorkeeper was M. M. Williscroft and refreshments were served by Mrs. H. A. Williscroft and Mrs. Buckley.

Organised by the Reading Room management committee to provide funds for necessary repairs, the event was a success. Mr. F. Hardcastle, who is chairman of the Parish Council and a member of the management committee, said this week: "In the absence at present of any other hall, the room must be maintained and to a certain extent improved. The public must have somewhere to hold meetings and functions of various kinds."

He added that he was in favour of calling a public meeting at which the village hall question could be discussed.

...nage church

TIMES 12/8/61

expenses

short rainstorm on Wednesday afternoon sent everyone at Colton Church garden party scurrying for r, but spirits were not dampened and a few minutes t was "business as usual." The garden party, held in church expenses, and was well patronised, more than eing raised.

familiar faces were missing and Lady Bagot and the the Rev. A. S. Towlson rs. Towlson. The general was well expressed by Mr. Waters, who deputised for or, when he referred to the "their old friend" and of the living of Blithfield, agot, who was being crema- t afternoon. He said Lady was certainly with them in nd had sent a donation.

H. B. Croft, of Cannock, no introduction to mem- the Mothers' Union, he r she was well known as g member at her own

ng the garden party, Mrs. aid there was nothing she tter than a church garden Many people outside the would like to enjoy such ips as those gained at So many would love to fellowship but they were or diffident to come for- he said.

joying that fellowship they spare a thought for all e Church meant to them. urch was always there, be- enerations ago, people gave time, their skill and their and provided a church. inded her hearers that the had also pioneered educa- and medical services, as it was doing today in un- d countries.

Croft was presented with a by one of the youngest s of the choir, Marilyn and the schoolchildren her.

I. Williscroft (churchwar- treasurer) proposed the thanks.

was no dancing display ar, but the fancy dress was held as usual. The were:— Boys: 1, Lynn (chimney sweep); 2, Ian shepherd); 3, Kevin Waters ox); consolation, Nigel (Colton Menace, a motor-cycle). Girls: 1, Kathleen Norman (Japanese girl); 2, Glenys Jones (pins and needles); 3, Gwen Ravenscroft (fuschia); consolation, Ellen Myatt (bride).

During the evening there was a gymnastic display by the Chase Health and Strength Club.

Stallholders

Cakes: Mrs. S. J. Timmins, Mrs. P. W. Westhorpe; produce: Mrs. J. A. Best, Mrs. G. Mellor, Mrs. M. Deacon, Miss E. Rochelle; brantub and balloons: Mrs. T. V. Collins; china: Mrs. J. L. Taylor and Mrs. M. J. Fateh; crinoline lady (handkerchiefs): Mrs. D. E. Waters and schoolchildren; general stores: Mr. Jack Brown; miscellaneous (Coopers stall): Mrs. F. Cooper, Miss D. Cooper; white elephant: Mrs. A. Cooper, Mrs. P. M. Buckley.

Sideshows — Hoop-la: Choir; rollapenny: Miss A. Hoare; clock-golf: Miss D. M. Jones; rifle range: Mr. W. Norman; coconut shy: Mr. W. Bailey, Mr. D. Knight; bowling: Mr. C. M. Boycott; miniature bowls: Mr. R. Martin; darts: Mr. W. Yemans; schoela (Dutch game): Mrs. M. M. Everall.

Refresments: Mesdames M. Williscroft, N. Felton, G. E. Finnimore, M. E. Hibbs, E. Griffin, P. L. Bannister, I. Preston, B. M. Ravenscroft, J. H. Toy, Miss H. Streton, Miss S. Hibbs. Gatekeepers: Mr. N. Felton, Mr. T. Preston.

Winners of competitions were bowling: Mr. G. Mellor (whisky); Mrs. V. Collins, Mrs. Brown (Newton) and Miss Vernon (Admaston) tied for ladies' prize of a box of chocolates; miniatiure bowls, Mrs. S. Martin; schoela, Miss Diane Grimley; clock-golf, Mr. F. Knight; rifle range, Mr. Peart and Charles Pitcher tied for first prize; ladies' prize, Mrs. V. Collins; juniors, tie between Kathleen Norman and William Martin.

In the picture above Marilyn Collins is ...een presenting a bouquet to Mrs. H. B. Croft. Mrs. Symonds, mother ... Mrs. Croft is seated. Also in the picture are Mr. and Mrs. D. E. ...ters and Mr. and Mrs. M. Williscroft. Right: The scene ... the Rectory lawn.

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Mrs. J. H. Toy takes a putt in a round of Clock ... Mrs. E. Finnimore (left), Miss D. M. Jones and M ... (right). Left: The two young shots on the rifle ... Norman. Mr. W. Norman ...

members visit Maer

Fourteen members of Colton ...

...announced the win- ... the points ... up it was found that ... there were ties for ... Mr. Jarvis then called ... to present the awards ...

...aid of the expenses account of Colton Parish Church.

Held in the Rectory Grounds, the event was opened by Mrs. H. B. Croft, of Cannock, who was intro-

COLTON CHURCH GARDEN PARTY

Mercury 15/8/61

This year's Colton Garden party in aid of the Church expenses Account, held in the Rectory Grounds, had more ...

Mrs. P. B. Best, Miss E. Rotchell, Mrs. G. Mellor and Mrs. Sheila Deacon; Cakes, Mrs. D. Timmins and Mrs. M. A. Westhorpe; China,

COLTON ...

At the September m... Colton Women's Institute ... the Reading Room, vic... Mrs. M. S. Toy presided. ... comed three visitors. Mrs ...

KEEN COMPETITION AT COLTON PRODUCE GUILD SHOW

Mercury 25/8/61

SOME good entries and keen competition was seen at the annual show staged by Colton Village Produce Guild and Women's Institute on Saturday in spite of weather conditions during the year not being too favourable for gardens.

All classes, except one, that of plums, attracted entries. Judges in the horticultural section were Mr. P. Ferguson of Ingestre Gardens and Miss M. M. Blore, Horticultural Advisor to Worcestershire County Council. Cookery section Mrs. E. Dando, demonstrator, Midlands Electricity Board; Handicraft section, Mrs. E. Barton of Newton; Wine section, Mrs. Salter; Children's Art Section, Mr. S. J. Timmins.

Opener of the show, Mrs. N. E. Wain of Chatcull Old Hall, Eccleshall, was introduced by the show chairman, Mr. S. J. Timmins.

Mrs. Wain remarked that she was on the County Executive Committee of Village Produce Guilds Association when it was first suggested that Colton would be a good place to form a Guild. On declaring the show open, Mrs. Wain spoke of the high standard of the exhibits on view. She next presented the Silver Challenge Cups to this year's winners. These were: Ladies, Mrs. F. Baker and Gents, Mr. Peter Preston.

Ten year old Gwendoline Ravenscroft presented a bouquet to Mrs. Wain and a buttonhole to Mr. Timmins. A vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs. I. Preston, President of Colton Women's Institute to Mrs. Wain and the vote of thanks to the judges was proposed by the chairman of the Produce Guild, Mr. J. H. Toy.

Among those in attendance were County Secretary, Mr. D. M. Gubb and Mr. J. W. Jones of Maer Guild.

THE RESULTS

Potatoes, white: 1, Mrs. E. J. Poynton, 2 and 3, Mr. P. Preston. Coloured potatoes: 1, Mrs. E. J. Poynton, 2 and 3, Mr. P. Preston. Tomatoes: 1, Mrs. F. Baker, 2, Mrs. Poynton, 3, Mrs. E. H. Tabernor. Onions from seed: 1 & 2, Mr. P. Preston, 3, Mr. S. J. Timmins. Onions from sets: 1, Mrs. F. Baker, 2 and 3, Mr. P. Preston. Shallots: 1, S. J. Timmins, 2, Mr. G. L. Nicholls, 3, Mrs. Dorothy Timmins.

Beetroot: 1, Mr. Peter Preston, 2, Mrs. Dora Deacon, 3, Miss D. M. Jones, highly commended, Mr. Tom Preston.

Runner beans: 1, Mrs. Baker, 2, P. Preston, 3, S. J. Timmins. Peas: 1, Mrs. Poynton, 2, Mrs. E. H. Tabernor, 3, Mr. G. L. Nicholls. Carrots: 3, Mrs. Baker. Parsnips: P. Preston only.

Cauliflowers: 1, P. Preston, 2, Mrs. Baker, 3, Mrs. Edith Preston. Lettuce: 1, Mr. J. H. Toy, 2, P. Preston and Mr. Jack Brown. Cabbage: 1, Mrs. Baker, 2, G. L. Nicholls, 3, Mrs. E. Preston. Marrows: 1 and 2, Mrs. Baker, 3, Tom Preston. Collection of 4 vegetables: 1, Mrs. D. Deacon, 2 and 3, Mrs. Baker.

Eating apples: 1, P. Preston, 2, Mrs. Baker, 3, Mrs. E. Preston. Cooking Apples: 1 and 2, Tom Preston, 3, Mrs. M. L. Waters. Pears: 1, J. H. Toy, 2, S. J. Timmins, 3, S. J. Timmins.

Gladioli: 1 and 2, and "Popular Gardening" Diploma, P. Preston, 3, Mrs. E. H. Tabernor. Dahlias, decorative: 1, Miss Mary Preston, 2, Mrs. Baker, 3, Tom Preston. Cactus Dahlias: 1 and 2, Tom Preston, 3, Mrs. Timmins. Pom-Pom Dahlias: 1, Mrs. Baker, 2, Mrs. Edith Preston, 3, Mrs. H. M. Felton. Mixed Annuals: 1, S. J. Timmins, 2, Mrs Ivy Preston, 3, Mrs. D. Timmins. Sweet Peas: 1, P. Preston, 2 and 3, S. J. Timmins. Roses: 1, G. L. Nicholls, 2, Mrs. Poynton, 3, Mrs. E. H. Tabernor, and highly commended Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft. Carnations: 1, Mrs. H. M. Felton, 2, P. Preston, 3, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft. Pansies: 1, Mrs. E. H. Tabernor, highly commended Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft and Mrs. M. L. Waters. House plant in flower: 1, P. Preston, 2, Mrs. Poynton, 3, Miss M. Preston. House plant foliage: 1, Mrs. Ivy Preston, 2, Mrs. E. Preston, 3, Michael Garwood. Floral arrangement: 1 and diploma, floral art, Mrs. M. S. Toy, 2, Mrs. P. M. Buckley, 3, Mrs. Timmins.

Bottled gooseberries: 1, Mrs. D. Deacon, 2, Mrs. E. H. Tabernor, 3, Mrs. I. Preston. Blackcurrant jam: 1, Mrs. Timmins, 2, Mrs. M. L. Waters, 3, Mrs. M. E. Hibbs. Orange marmalade: 1, Mrs. Hibbs, 2, Mrs. E. Preston, 3, Mrs. P. M. Buckley. Honey: 1 and certificate of merit, Mrs. Dora Deacon, 2, Miss D. M. Jones, 3, Mrs. Deacon. Pickled onions: 1, S. J. Timmins, 2, Mrs. I. Preston, 3, Mrs. D. Timmins. Tomato sauce: 1 and 3, Mrs. D. Timmins, 2, Mrs. Ivy Preston. Salad cream: 1, Mrs. Timmins, 2, Mrs. Edith Preston, 3, Miss Mary Preston. Box of candies: 1, Miss M. Preston, 2, Mrs. E. Preston, 3, Mrs. R. O. Devall.

Ginger biscuits, 1, Mrs. Ivy Preston, 2, Mrs. E. Preston, 3, Miss Mary Preston. Victoria sandwich, 1, Mrs. Timmins, 2, Miss M. Preston, 3, Mrs. E. H. Tabernor h.c., Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft and Mrs. M. L. Waters. Dundee cake, 1 and 2, Mrs. M. S. Toy, 3, Mrs. Ravenscroft, h.c., Mrs. Tabernor. Knitted bedjacket: 1 and Woman's Own Bronze Medal, Mrs. H. M. Felton, 2, Mrs. Buckley, 3, Mrs. Tabernor. Table-centre, embroidered: 1 and 2, Mrs. Buckley. Thrift article, something new from something old: 1 and 2, Mrs. Buckley, 3, Mrs. I. Preston, special prize Miss Mary Preston. Soft toy: 1 and Womans Own Diploma, Mrs. Buckley, 2, Miss D. M. Jones, 3, Mrs. D. Timmins.

White Eggs: Mrs. E. M. Sargeant, Mrs. I. Preston, 3, Mrs. Toy. Brown eggs: 1 and Smallholder Certificate of Merit, Mrs Sargeant, 2, Mrs. Edith Preston 3, Mrs. H. M. Felton.

Childrens classes. Wild flowers: Gwendoline Ravenscroft. Picture of Gardening Interest (members children only, 5 to 8 years): 1 Lynn Sanders, 2, Doreen Atkin, 3, John Norman. (8 to 15 years): 1 Kathleen Norman, 2, Marilyn Preston, 3, Gwendoline Ravenscroft. Open classes to any child (5 to 8 years): 1, Audrey Stretton, 2, Glenys Jones, 3, Maxwell Cooper. (8 to 15 years): 1, Ian Evans, 2, June Sargeant, 3, Pauline Haycock.

The Smallholder Blue Ribbon for best exhibit in the show went to Mrs. Dora Deacon for her bottle of Comfrey Wine, which was afterwards sold. The prizes in the competition were won by Bottle of Whisky, Mr. A. N. Felton. Box of Cigarettes, Mr. Eric Devall. Box of Chocolates, Mrs. P. B. Best. The Treasure Hunt, in charge of Miss Judith Preston and Miss Muriel Finnemore was won by Mrs. L. Bettson. The Hoop, was in the charge of Miss Ruth Ravenscroft assisted by Susan Hibbs.

Keen competition at Colton Show

Sentinel 25/8/61

STAGED BY PRODUCE GUILD AND WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

In spite of the unfavourable gardening season, some good entries and keen competition were seen at the annual show staged by the Colton Village Produce Guild and Women's Institute and held on Saturday.

The judges were: Horticultural section, Mr. P. Ferguson of Ingestre Gardens, and Miss M. M. Blore (whose parents live in Colton) Horticultural Advisor to the Worcestershire County Council; cookery, &c., section, Mrs. E. Dando, demonstrator, Midlands Electricity Board; handicraft section, Mrs. E. Barton, of Newton; wine section, Mrs. Salter, wife of Abbots Bromley doctor. Mr. S. J. Timmins judged the children's art section.

The Show Chairman (Mr. S. J. Timmins) introduced the opener, Mrs. N. E. Wain, of Chatcull Old Hall, Eccleshall, who also presented the silver Challenge Cups to the winners: Ladies, Mrs. F. Baker; gents, Mr. Peter Preston. Ten-years-old Gwendoline Ravenscroft presented the bouquet to Mrs. Wain, and a buttonhole to Mr. Timmins. Mrs. Ivy Preston (President, Colton Women's Institute) proposed the vote of thanks to Mrs. Wain.

THE PRIZEWINNERS

Prizewinners were: Potatoes, white, 1, Mrs. E. J. Poynton; 2 and 3, Peter Preston. Coloured potatoes, 1, Mrs. E. J. Poynton; 2 and 3, P. Preston. Tomatoes, 1, Mrs. F. Baker; 2, Mrs. Poynton; 3, Mrs. E. H. Tabernor. Onions from seed, 1 and 2, P. Preston; 3, S. J. Timmins. Onions from sets, 1, Mrs. F. Baker; 2 and 3, P. Preston. Shallots, 1, S. J. Timmins; 2, G. L. Nicholls; 3, Mrs. Dorothy Timmins. Beetroot, 1, Peter Preston; 2, Mrs. Dora Deacon; 3, Miss D. M. Jones; h.c., Tom Preston. Runner beans, 1, Mrs. Baker; 2, P. Preston; 3, S. J. Timmins. Peas, 1, Mrs. Poynton; 2, Mrs. E. H. Tabernor; 3, G. L. Nicholls. Carrots, 3, Mrs. Baker; Parsnips, P. Preston. Cauliflower, 1, P. Preston; 2, Mrs. Baker; 3, Mrs. Edith Preston. Lettuce, 1, J. H. Toy; 2, P. Preston; 3, Jack Brown. Cabbage, 1, Mrs. Baker; 2, G. L. Nicholls; 3, Mrs. E. Preston. Marrows, 1 and 2, Mrs. Baker; 3, Tom Preston. Collection of vegetables, 1, Mrs. D. Deacon; 2, and 3, Mrs. Baker. Eating apples, 1, P. Preston; 2, Mrs. Baker; 3, Mrs. E. Preston. Cooking apples, 1 and 2, Tom Preston; 3, Mrs. M. L. Waters. Pears, 1, J. H. Toy; 2 and 3, S. J. Timmins.

FLOWERS, &c.

Gladioli, 1 and 2, P. Preston; 3, Mrs. E. H. Tabernor. Dahlias, decorative, 1, Miss Mary Preston, 2, Mrs. Baker; 3, Tom Preston. Cactus dahlias, 1 and 2, Tom Preston; 3, Mrs. Timmins. Pompon dahlias, 1, Mrs. Baker; 2, Mrs. Edith Preston; 3, Mrs. H. M. Felton. Mixed annuals, 1, S. J. Timmins; 2, Mrs. Ivy Preston; 3, Mrs. D. Timmins. Sweet peas, 1, P. Preston; 2 and 3, S. J. Timmins. Roses, 1, G. L. Collier; 2, Mrs. Poynton; 3, Mrs. E. H. Tabernor; h.c., Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft. Carnations, 1, Mrs. H. M. Felton; 2, P. Preston; 3, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft. Pansies, 1, 2 and 3, G. L. Nicholls. House plant in flower, 1, P. Preston; 2, Miss M. Preston; 3, Mrs. D. Deacon. House plant foliage, 1, Mrs. Ivy Preston; 2, Mrs. E. Preston; 3, Michael Garwood. Floral arrangement, 1 and diploma, floral art, Mrs. M. S. Toy; 2, Mrs. P. M. Buckley; 3, Mrs. Timmins.

PRESERVES, &c.

Bottled gooseberries: 1, Mrs. D. Deacon; 2, Mrs. E. H. Tabernor; 3, Mrs. I. Preston. Blackcurrant jam: 1, Mrs. Timmins; 2, Mrs. M. L. Waters; 3, Mrs. M. E. Hibbs. Orange marmalade: 1, Mrs. Hibbs; 2, Mrs. E. Preston; 3, Mrs. P. M. Buckley. Honey: 1 and certificate of merit, Mrs. Dora Deacon; 2, Miss D. M. Jones; 3, Mrs. Deacon. Pickled onions: 1, S. J. Timmins; 2, Mrs. I. Preston; 3, Mrs. D. Timmins. Tomato sauce: 1 and 3, Mrs. D. Timmins; 2, Mrs. Ivy Preston. Salad cream: 1, Mrs. Timmins; 2, Mrs. Edith Preston; 3, Miss Mary Preston. Box of candies: 1, Miss M. Preston; 2, Mrs. E. Preston; 3, Mrs. R. O. Devall.

Ginger biscuits, 1, Mrs. Ivy Preston; 2, Mrs. E. Preston; 3, Miss Mary Preston. Victoria sandwich, 1, Mrs. Timmins; 2, Miss M. Preston; 3, Mrs. E. H. Tabernor h.c., Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft and Mrs. M. L. Waters. Dundee cake, 1 and 2, Mrs. M. S. Toy; 3, Mrs. Ravenscroft; h.c., Mrs. Tabernor.

COLTON

15/9/61

VISIT TO ROEHAMPTON.

— Several members of the Colton Village Produce Guild —Mrs. M. S. Toy (delegate), Miss D. M. Jones (visitor), Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Timmins (who showed films), and Mr. and Mrs. J. Lewis (Colwich) —together with Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Hillier (also from Staffordshire) attended the annual conference of Village Produce Guilds at Roehampton. At supper on the Friday, the company enjoyed various wines and the traditional dishes of the counties. On the Saturday they attended a business meeting in the morning, and later went to Wisley. In the evening there was a film show. Mrs. Toy and Mr. Lewis both addressed the conference. SENTINEL

PRODUCE GUILD.—At the September meeting of the Colton Village Produce Guild held in the Reading Room, Mr. J. H. Toy (Chairman) presided over a large attendance. An unusual feature was a competition for a flower arrangement. The judge was Miss S. Jerrett, of Sandon, and stewards in charge were: Ladies' section, Mr. G. E. D. Atkin, sen.; gents' section, Mrs. C. M. Amyes. Prizewinners were: Ladies, 1, Mrs. Ivy Preston; 2, Mrs. Dorothy Timmins; 3, Mrs. Edith Preston. Gents, 1, Tom Preston; 2, A. N. Felton; 3, Peter Preston. New members welcomed were Mrs. C. Sanders and Mrs. O. G. Upton. In charge of tea arrangements were Miss D. M. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Timmins and Mr. Jack Brown. An enjoyable and interesting outing of Produce Guild members and friends took place on Saturday when, at the invitation of Miss Harrison, of Maer Hall (President of the Staffordshire Association) they visited Maer Hall and gardens. Arrangements had been made by Mr. J. W. Jones of Maer Guild. The party were met by Mr. and Mrs. Heber Bullock and escorted through the hall. Later a picnic tea was enjoyed in the hall grounds.

COLTON W.I.

Mercury 22/9/61

At the September meeting of Colton W.I. held in the Reading Room, the first Vice-President Mrs M. S. Toy presided and welcomed three visitors, Mrs Craddock, President of Slitting Mill W.I., Mrs D. Timmins, and the mother of Mrs Waters, who is on a visit from Yorkshire. Mrs Toy extended the congratulations of the President to all winners at the annual show, sincere thanks to the show committee and to anyone who had helped. Mrs Toy welcomed Mrs Doyle of the Bread Advisory Service who gave an interesting talk and passed on bread recipes. She was thanked by Mrs D. M. Atkin and Mrs P. L. Bannister. Tea hostesses were Mrs M. L. Waters, Mrs B.M. Ravencroft, and Mrs H. Williscroft. The Mystery prize and the competition prize for 'Apple tart on a saucer' went to Mrs M.G. Bennett.

Colton Produce Guild members at conference

TIMES 9/9/61

The friendly spirit existing between Village Produce Guild members, so often enjoyed at county level, was experienced at national level by local members who attended the annual conference at Roehampton, London, last week-end.

Colton Guild members attending were Mrs. M. S. Toy (delegate), Miss D. M. Jones (vistor), and Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Timmins to show the Colton films.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Lewis (Colwich) were also present. The conference commenced at tea-time on Friday, and on the same evening the home-produced supper took place, when the company enjoyed various wines and the traditional dishes of the counties.

Saturday morning was devoted to business, and the afternoon was free for a visit to Wisley or Kew Gardens, the local visitors choosing Wisley. On the same evening came the Colton film show, which was greatly enjoyed.

Both Mrs. Toy and Mr. Lewis addressed the large gathering.

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QUALITY KEYNOTE AT COLTON

(+ photo)

ADVERTISER. 24/8/61

A SLIGHT drop in entries at Colton Produce Guild's second annual show, was compensated by a very high quality in exhibits, despite a not-so-good growing season.

Miss M. M. Blore, horticultural adviser to Worcestershire County Council, one of the judges, said there was a large number of outstanding exhibits.

So difficult was the task before the judges that the opening was delayed an hour while they made up their minds.

Mr D. M. Gibb, secretary of the Staffordshire Rural Community Council, paid a quick visit. "It is good to see such an array and such a variety of names among the winners," he said.

Mr Peter Preston, of Gentleshaw, won enough points to win him the trophy for the best gentleman exhibitor, and Mrs F Baker, of Arch Street, Rugeley, the reward for the best lady.

The award for the best exhibit in the show went to Mrs D. Deacon, of Colton, with a bottle of home-made comfrey wine. Mrs G. J. Nicholls's pansies took all the prizes in their class.

Mrs N. E. Wain, of Chatcull Old Hall, Eccleshall, who opened the show, was presented with a bouquet by 11-year-old Gwendoline Ravenscroft.

Judges: Horticulture, Mr P. Ferguson, of Ingestre Hall Estate, and Miss Blore; cookery, Mrs Dando, of the West Midlands Electricity Board; handicraft, Mrs E Barton of Newton.

TABLES: White potatoes: J [illegible] P Preston; 2, Miss D. Jor J. Timmins; 3, D. Timmins.

Tomato sauce: 2, Mrs. I. Preston; 3, Mrs. Preston. Mrs. M. Preston; Miss M. Preston; Mrs. Timmins; H. Tabernor.

Dundee cake: Mr Toy; 2, Mr (fancy cakes: Mrs. I. Preston; 3, Mrs. Timmin Diploma); 2, Buckley. Home Deacon (also merit); 2 and

Knitted bed Felton (also Medal); 2, Mr nor. Embroide 2, Mrs. Buckl 2, Mrs. Buc special prize. — 1, Mrs. B Diploma); 2, Timmins.

White eggs: 2, Mrs I. Pr eggs. — 1 M holder certific Preston; 3, Mr

Children's cl Gwendoline I gardening inte — 1, Lynn Sar John Norman. I — 1, Kathlee Preston, 3 Gwe class (five to e Stretton; 2, C Cooper. Open c — 1 Ian Evan Pauline Haycock

mins ("Woman's Own" diploma), 2 Mrs E Preston, 3 Mrs P M Buckley. Home-made wine: 1 Mrs D Deacon (certificate of merit and outstanding entry in show), 2 and 3 Mrs E Preston.

Handicraft: Knitted bed jacket: 1 Mrs H M Felton ("Woman's Own" bronze medal), 2 Mrs P M Buckley, 3 Mrs E H Tabernor.

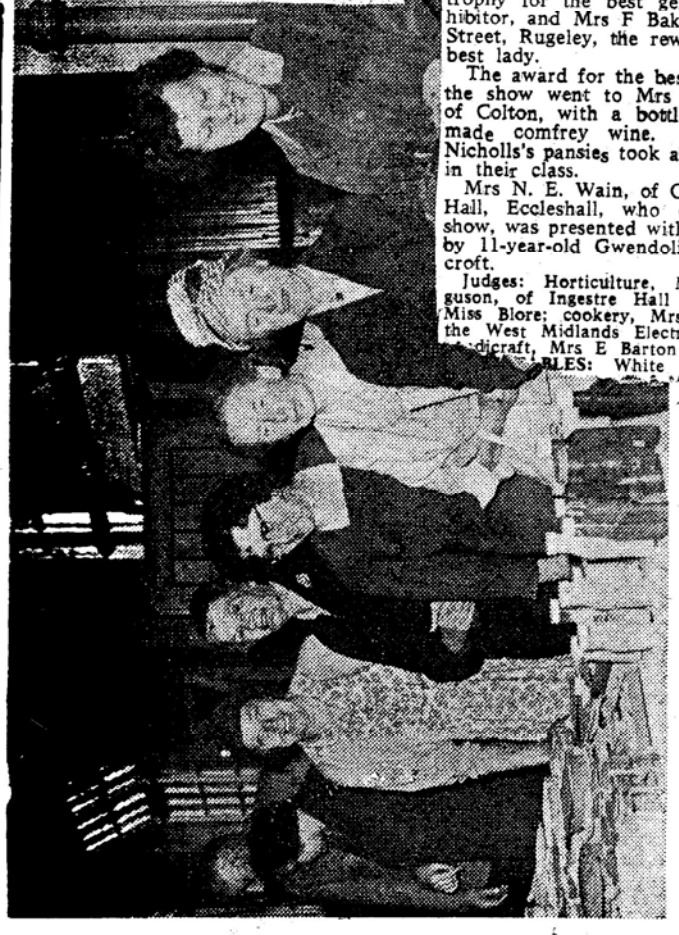
Embroidered table colours: 1 and 2 Mrs P M Buckley. Thrift article: 1 and 2 Mrs P M Buckley, 3 Mrs I Preston; special, Miss M Preston. Soft toy: 1 Mrs P M Buckley (diploma), 2 Miss D Jones, 3 Mrs D Timmins. White eggs: 1 Mrs E M Sargeant, 2 Mrs I Preston, 3 Mrs J Toy. Brown eggs: 1 Mrs E M Sargeant ("Smallholder" certificate of merit), 2 Mrs E Preston, 3 Mrs H M Felton.

Children's classes: Greatest numbe of wild flowers in 2 lb. jam jar: Gwendoline Ravenscroft. Children aged 5-8, picture of anything connec ted with gardening: 1 Lyn Sanders 2 Doreen Atkin, 3 John Norman; age 8-15: picture of anything connecte with gardening: 1 Kathleen Norman 2 Marylin Preston, 3 Gwendolin Ravenscroft.

Children's open: Gardening pictur 5-8 years: 1 Audrey Stretton, 2 Glen Jones, 3 Maxwell Cooper. Gardenin picture, aged 8-15: 1 Ian Evans, June Sargeant, 3 Pauline Haycock.

A competition for a bottle o whisky was won my Mr. A. N Felton; Mr. E. Devall won 3 cigarettes, and Mrs. P. B. Best a bo of chocolates.

Little Miss Rachel Brown, aged three, admires a winning floral arrangement at Colton flower show.



Timmins. Beetroot: — 1, P. Preston; 2, Mrs. D Deacon; 3, Miss D. Jones. Runner beans: — 1, Mrs. Baker; 2, P. Preston; 3, S. J. Timmins.

Peas: — 1, Mrs. E. J. Poynton; 2, Mrs. E. H. Tabernor; 3, G. L. Nicholls. Carrots: — 3, Mrs. Baker. Parsnips: — P. Preston. Cauliflower: — 1, P. Preston; 2, Mrs. Baker; 3, Mrs. E. Preston. Lettuce: — 1, J. H. Toy; 2, P. Preston; 3, J. Brown. Cabbage: — 1, Mrs. Baker; 2, G. L. Nicholls; 3, Mrs. E. Preston. Marrow: — 1 and 2, Mrs. Baker; 3, T. Preston. Collection of vegetables: — 1, Mrs. D. Deacon; 2 and 3, Mrs. Baker.

Fruit — dessert apples: — 1, P. Preston; 2, Mrs. Baker; 3, Mrs. E. Preston. Cooking apples: — 1 and 2, T. Preston; 3, Mrs. M. L. Waters. Pears: — 1, J. H. Toy; 2 and 3, S. J. Timmins.

Flowers — Gladioli: — 1 and 2, P. Preston; 3, Mrs. E. H. Tabernor. Dahlias (decorative): — 1, Miss M. Preston; 2, Mrs. Baker; 3, T. Preston. Dahlias (cactus): — 1 and 2, T. Preston; 3, Mrs. Timmins. Dahlias (pons): — 1, Mrs. Baker; 2, Mrs. E. Preston; 3, Mrs. H. M. Felton. Mixed annuals: — 1, Mrs. S. J. Timmins; 2, Mrs. I. Preston; 3, Mrs. D. Timmins. Sweet peas: — 1 P. Preston; 2 and 3, S. J. Timmins.

Roses: — 1, G. L. Nicholls; 2, Mrs. Poynton; 3, — Mrs. H. M. Felton; 2, P. Preston; 3, — Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft. Pansies: — 1, 2 and 3, G. L. Nicholls. House plant (inflower): — 1, P. Preston; 2, Miss M. Preston; 3, Mrs. D. Deacon. House plant (in foliage): — 1, Mrs. I. Preston; 2, Mrs. E. Preston; 3, Mr. Garwood. Floral arrangement: — 1, Mrs. M. S. Toy (also Popular Gardening Diploma); 2, Mrs. P. M. Buckley; 3, Mrs. Timmins.

Produce — bottled fruit: — 1, Mrs. D. Deacon; 2, Mrs. E. H. Tabernor; 3, Mrs. I. Preston. Blackcurrant jam: — 1, Mrs. Timmins; 2, Mrs. M. L. Waters; 3, Mrs. M. E. Hibbs. Marmalade: — 1, Mrs. Hibbs; 2, Mrs. E. Preston; 3, Mrs. P. M. Buckley. Honey: — 1 and 3, Mrs. Deacon (also Smallholder certificate of merit);

GUILD AND W.I. STAGE SHOW

TIMES 26/8/61

unfavourable weather conditions for gardeners son, some excellent exhibits were seen at ge Produce Guild and Women's Institute's able, flower and produce show held in the turday. The only class on the schedule which act entries was Plums.

d a difficult task, y was delayed for

mmins (show chair- d the opener, Mrs. Chatcull Old Hall, nvalled how when e Village Produce n and it was sug- on would be a good a guild, she had re on earth is

e had visited the al occasions, once round of the Best competition, which would be won by day. high standard of presenting the to Mrs. F. Baker tion.

old Gwendoline nted a bouquet to buttonhole to Mr. of thanks were pro- Preston (president Institute). Mr. J. an of the Produce . Timmins. Also ening were Mr. D. y secretary) and of Maer Guild.

re as follows: — r. P. Ferguson and Miss M. M. ural advisor to

Worcester County Council); Cookery, Mrs. E. Dando (M.E.B. demonstrator); handicraft, Mrs. E. Barton of Newton; wines, Mrs. J. G. Salter, of Abbots Bromley, children's art, Mr. S. G. Timmins.

Winners of the competition held during the afternoon were: Mr. A. N. Felton (whisky), Mr. E. Devall (cigarettes), and Mrs. P. B. Best (chocolates). The treasure hunt, run by Judith Preston and Muriel Finnemore, was won by Mrs. L. Bettson. Ruth Ravenscroft and Susan Hibbs were in charge of a hoop-la stall.

Refreshments were served by Mesdames I. Preston, M. S. Toy, A. Felton, Bettson, Sargeant, D. Deacon, Baker, E. Preston, C. M. Aymes, J. Garwood, P. L. Bannister, H. A. Williscroft, E. H. Tabernor, E. Atkin, and Miss E. Rotchell. The doorkeeper was Mr. G. E. D. Atkin.

Mr. R. A. Brundle totalled up the points awarded in the various classes, assisted by Mr. A. N. Felton (treasurer). The secretary was Mrs. E. M. Ravenscroft, and on the committee were Mr. Timmins, Mr. Felton, Miss D. Jones, Mr. G. H. Toy, Mrs. I. Preston, Mr. G. Atkin senior, Mr. D. Garwood and Mr. A. W. Meddings.

AWARDS

Vegetables — Potatoes (white): — 1, Mrs. E. J. Poynton; 2 and 3, P. Preston; Potatoes (coloured): 2 and 3, Mrs. E. J. Poynton; 2 and 3, P. Preston. Tomatoes: — 1, Mrs. F. Baker; 2 Mrs. E. J. Poynton; 3, Mrs. E. H. Tabernor. Onions (from seed): 1 and 2, P. Preston; 3, S. J. Timmins. Onions (from sets): — 1, Mrs. F. Baker; 2, P. Preston. Shallots: — 1, S. J. Timmins; 2, G. L. Nicholls; 3, Mrs. D.

The winemakers

TIMES 9/9/61

TWO ladies accomplished in the art of winemaking both attribute their success to their parents. They are Mrs. Edith Preston and Mrs. Dora Deacon, who were among the prizewinners at the recent show held by the Colton Produce Guild and W.I.

Mrs. Deacon won first prize and the Smallholder blue ribbon for the best exhibit in the show with her bottle of comfrey wine, and Mrs. Preston took second and third prizes with damson and hock.

"I am giving no secrets away regarding the recipes," Mrs. Deacon, of Stockwell Heath, Colton told the "Times" this week. She pointed out that she just follows her mother's example, and her "cellar" includes, mangold, potato, dandelion, mead, parsnip, and, of course, that prize-winning comfrey wine. It was the first time Mrs. Deacon had won an award at a show. She entered a few bottles at last [illegible] rising [illegible]

COLTON

Service.—The September meeting of Colton branch of the Mothers' Union took the form of an enrolment service in St. Mary's Parish Church, by the Rector, Rev. A. S. Towlson, who conducted an impressive service. Those members to take their vows were: Mrs. Ivy Preston, Mrs. Maureen Lilian Waters, and as associate member, Miss Joyce Irene Dolman. The hymn sung was "Love Divine," and the Rector was at the organ. Tea was served at the Rectory. Unfortunately the enrolling member, Mrs. J. L. Taylor, was unable to attend owing to illness. A collection was made for Lichfield Diocesan Association for Moral Welfare work. This, "the people's offering," will be taken to the Cathedral and be received by the Bishop.

Wedding. — The wedding took place at St. Mary's Church, Colton, on Saturday, of Miss Beatrice May Stretton, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Stretton of Colton, and Mr. Eric Gould, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Gould, of The Nest, Etching Hill, Rugeley. The Rector, Rev. A. S. Towlson, officiated, and Mrs. G. E. Finnemore was at the organ. Hymns sung were "Love Divine" and "Lead us Heavenly Father." The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a dress of white Nottingham lace, with a head-dress of roses and lily of the valley, and a circular veil. Her bouquet was of pink roses and trailing fern. She was attended by Miss Hilda Stretton (bride's sister) and Miss Irene Martin (friend) dressed in pink lace over satin and white accessories, Miss Audrey Stretton (bride's sister) and Miss Angela Gould, dressed in blue [illegible]

recipes, but said she was always ready to try something new. Her grandmother and her father prompted her interest in home-made wine, and she jokingingly remarked that there were two or three people in Etching Hill who could testify to the strength of her father's brews.

Elder flower, hock, hop, blackberry, mangold, mayflower and damson—Mrs. Preston has made them all, and she is now trying a new recipe with the ominous sounding name of "jungle juice." Most of the principal ingredients are gathered from her own garden or the local hedgerows, except when such things as hop leaves are needed, and these are obtained from a chemist.

"There is quite a lot of work in the making of wine and such things as clarifying take a long time," stressed Mrs. Preston. She went on to explain that the type of sugar used made a difference to the colour of the finished product.

Mrs. Preston is not the only prizewinner in the family, her husband having taken third prize in the recent "Best Kept Garden" competition organised by Colton Village Produce Guild. Her daughter, Mary, won first prize with her home-made candies at Colton Show.

Mrs. Preston mentioned that her daughter also took an interest in winemaking.

"Yes," agreed Mary, "but I don't make any, I just do all the donkey work, such as peeling the fruit!"

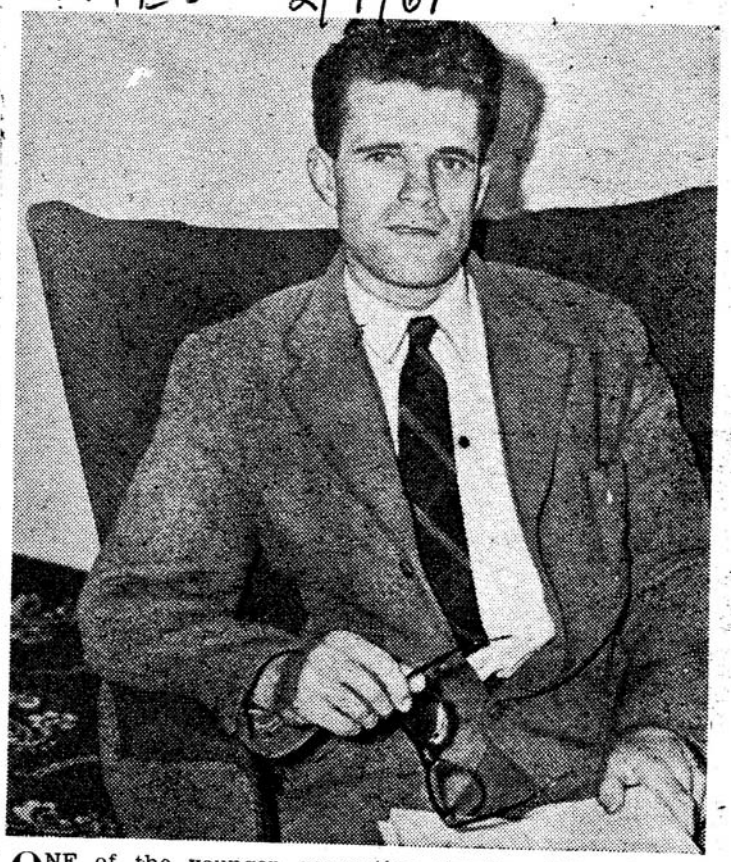
Colton M.U. 29/9/61

The September meeting of Colton branch of the Mothers' Union took the form of an enrollment service in St. Mary's Parish Church, by the Rector, Rev. A. S. Towlson, who conducted an impressive service.

Those members taking their Mothers' Union vows were, Mrs. Ivy Preston, Mrs. Maureen Lilian Waters, and as associate member, Miss Joyce Irene Dolman. The hymn sung was "Love Divine" the Rector being at the organ. Tea was served at the Rectory. Unfortunately the enrolling member, Mrs. J. L. Taylor was unable to

MR. D. E. WATERS

TIMES 2/9/61



ONE of the younger generation steering Colton into a rosy future is Mr. Donald Edward Waters, for the last two years headmaster of Colton Church School.

Born in Wombwell, near Barnsley, in South Yorkshire, 32 years ago, Mr. Waters was educated at Barnsley Grammar School from 1940 to 1947, after which he served his two years' National Service in the Royal Army Education Corps.

After a period at Catterick he spent 14 months in Egypt, at Middle East College in the Suez zone. There he had the task of teaching semi-illiterate soldiers sent there on six-week courses.

After demobilisation, Mr. Waters went to St. John's Training College, York, taking divinity as his main subject. While at college he was a member of the cross-country and athletic clubs and was the college representative in the Student Movement.

From 1951 he taught at a large primary school near Sheffield, and then volunteered to go into a secondary modern school during the teacher shortage. There he taught for a time, his subjects being English and geograhy, and two years ago he was appointed headmaster at Colton.

Being head of a village school, small though it may be, does not leave much time, for indulging in hobbies, for Mr. Waters finds that the clerical work connected with the school has to be done in the evenings. Then there is the youth club which he started a year ago. This, meeting on two nights a week with a membership of 30, creates considerable work for the leader, but it is work that he likes doing.

"I am looking forward to next year, when we hope to see the modernisation of the school started in time for the centenary. Plans have been passed by the church authorities and the matter is now resting with the Ministry of Education," he says.

While at Wombwell Mr. Waters was superintendent of the senior section of the parish church Sunday school. Since 1955 he has been a licensed diocesan reader, first with the Sheffield diocese and now with the Lichfield diocese. At present he is deputy rector's warden and a member of the Parochial Church Council at Colton. During the recent long illness of the rector he took many of the services at Colton and Blithfield and was allowed the unusual privilege of helping with the Holy Communion services.

A member of the National Union of Teachers, he interests himself keenly in the activities of the Rugeley and District Association. During the next year he is planning to start a parent-teacher association at Colton school, for after his two years there he feels there is a need for one.

Mrs. Waters, who also comes from Wombwell, was a stores cashier and typist. They have a four years-old son, Kevin.

The September meeting of Colton branch of the Mothers' Union took the form of an enrolment service in St. Mary's Parish Church, conducted by the Rector (the Rev. A. S. Towlson). Members to take their Mothers' Union vows were

ADVERTISER 14/9/61

COLTON

Produce Guild.—The friendly spirit existing between Village Produce Guild members so often enjoyed at county level, was experienced at national level by local members who attended the annual conference at Roehampton, London, last week-end. Colton Guild members attending were Mrs. M. S. Toy, as delegate, Miss D. M. Jones, visitor, and Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Timmins to show Colton films, Mr. and Mrs. J. Lewis from Colwich, and also from Staffordshire were Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Hillier.

Both Mrs. Toy and Mr. Lewis addressed the gathering. After lunch on the Sunday and the singing of the Village Produce Association song, delegates and visitors said their farewells for the 1961 Conference.

Produce Guild.—At the September meeting of the Colton Village Produce Guild held in the Reading Room, Mr. J. H. Toy, chairman, presiding, many members attended. An unusual feature was introduced by way of the competition, this was a "flower arrangement" done in the room in no more than te minutes. The judge was Miss S. Jerrett of Sandon, and Stewards in charge were ladies section, Mr G E D Atkin (sen) and gent.'s section, Mrs. C M Amyes. There was a wonderful display. Miss Jerrett awarded prizes to ladies, Mrs Ivy Preston, Mrs Dorothy Timmins, Mrs. Edith Preston; gent.'s, Mr Tom Preston, Mr A N Felton, and Mr Peter Preston. Miss JJerrett was thanked by Mrs I Preston. New members welcomed were Mrs. C Sanders and Mrs O G Upton Business dealt with after the reading and confirmation of the minutes included the chairman's congratulations to winners in the recent Best Kept garden competition and at the annual show, and thanked the show chairman, Mr S J Timmins, for his hard work in connection and thanks to all members of the section with the show. Mr Timmins show committee who had given up so much time to make the show the success it was.

Mr. Toy spoke of th edeparture of Mr R A Brundle to his new post at Liverpool. Mr. Brundle had been chairman of the guild for three years and vice-chairman last year and had also been the representative to the County Executive Committee. Mr. Brundle had put in a tremendous amount of work for the guild. A letter had been sent expressing appreciation and Miss Jones read a reply from Mr. Brundle.

Teas were served by Miss D M Jones, Mr and Mrs S J Timmins and Mrs. Brown.

A very enjoyable and interesting visit of produce guild members and friends took place on Saturday afternoon when at the invitation of Miss Harrison of Maer Hall, who is president of the Staffordshire Association, they visited Maer Hall and gardens.

Arrangements had been made by Mr Mellors of Maer Guild. The party were met by Mr and Mrs Heber Bullock and escorted through rooms in the hall by Mr. Bullock, after which a buffet tea was enjoyed in the hall grounds in lovely sunshine and before departing the party took a walk round the church and village, and no one was surprised at the fact that the village is the one to hold the trophy for the year in the recent competition.

A NOVEL TEST FOR FLORAL ARTISTS

TIMES 23/8/61

AN unusual feature was introduced as a competition at the September meeting of Colton Produce Guild held under the chairmanship of Mr. J. H. Toy. It was a flower arrangement which had to be done in the room in no more than 10 minutes.

Miss S. Jerrett, of Sandon, was the judge and Mr. G. E. D. Atkin, senr., and Mrs. C. M. Amyes were stewards. Miss Jerrett, who also offered helpful remarks, suggestions and criticisms, awarded prizes to — Ladies: — 1, Mrs. I. Preston; 2, Mrs. D. Timmins; 3, Mrs. E. Preston; gents: — 1, Mr. T. Preston; 2, Mr. A. N. Felton; 3, Mr. P. Preston.

A vote of thanks to Miss Jerrett, who also demonstrated some flower arrangements herself, was moved by Mrs. I. Preston.

New members Mrs. C. Sanders and Mrs. O. G Upton were welcomed. The chairman congratulated the winners of the recent garden competition and the annual show winners and thanked Mr. S. J. Timmins (show chairman) for his hard work in that connection. Mr. Timmins extended his thanks to all his committee members.

It was decided to hold a whist drive on December 1 and a harvest supper on October 5. County events discussed included the annual dinner the county quiz and the county digging match on October 14, which is to take place on Mr. Atkins's ground at Brookfield Farm, Colton.

Mr. Toy spoke of the departure of Mr. R. A. Brundle to his new post at Liverpool. He had been chairman of the guild for three years and vice-chairman last year, also being the representative on the county Executive Committee.

A letter had been sent to him and Miss D. M. Jones (secretary) read a reply in which Mr. Brundle said he and his family had no intention of losing touch with Colton guild and village. It was decided to present him with a climbing rose.

Mrs. M. S. Toy gave a comprehensive report on the national conference. In charge of tea were Miss D. M. Jones Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Timmins, and Mr. Jack Brown.

COLTON

Certificate award.—On Wednesday evening at Barton-under-Needwood, Mrs. M S. Toy, chairman of Colton Best Kept Village Committee, received the Finalists Certificate (small villages section), won by Colton in the recent 'Best Kept Village Competition. The occasion being the re-unveiling of the trophy in the Large Villages section, won again by Barton-Under-Needwood, by Mr. Tupholm, of Staffordshire Sentinel Newspapers, who also presented the certificates to winning area villages represented. Abbots Bromley as well as Colton received their certificate.

Apology for absence was announced from Sir Alfred Owen, who is very interested in the competition. The gathering was addressed by Colonel E L Lowe (chairman of Barton-UnderNeedwood parish council). Mr. Tupholm, Mr D. M Gibb, secretary, Rural Community Council, Mr C A Thorley, chairman Tutbury RDC, and Mr G C Lowe Chairman of Best Kept Village Competition,

Refreshments were provided by Barton-under-Needwood W.I., to whom a hearty vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs Toy. Also attending from Colton were Mr. J H Toy, Mr. and Mrs. S J Timmins and Mrs. B M Ravenscroft It is hoped to have the certificate framed to hang in the Reading Room in time for the Produce Guild Harvest Supper, next week.

Dance.—A dance took place in the Reading Room, Colton, on the 29th September, organised by the committee of management of the Reading Room, in support of the funds they are aiming to get together in their efforts to get the affairs of the room in reasonable order.

Al Robinson's Band provided the music. Mr. Luke Mellor was the doorkeeper. The room had been suitably decorated, and spot prizes were given Competition prizes went to Mr John Foster, and Mr R Martin, Refreshments were in the charge of Mrs M L Waters and Mrs P. M. Buckley.

Harvest.—Harvest festival services at Colton St. Mary's Church commenced on Thursday the 28th September with evensong conducted by the Rector (Rev. A. S. Towlson). The following afternoon was the children's festival when all the pupils of Colton Church School escorted by their teachers, took their gifts of various kinds to Church to be received at the altar by the Rector. Mrs. G. Shaw was at the organ. The service was also attended by parents and friends.

Services were continued on Sunday, again conducted by the Rector assisted by Mr. D. E. Waters, and Mrs. G. E. Finnemore was the organist, and took the form of choral eucharist at 11 o'clock, and evensong foliowed by shortened holy communion service. The choir sang an anthem. The church had been decorated by a small band of ladies to whom the Rector extended sincere thanks.

COLTON

Produce Guild.—Colton Produce Guild held their harvest supper in the Reading Room with 45 attending.

The chairman, Mr J. H. Toy, welcomed members and the toastmaster was Mr Jack Brown, who proposed the Royal Toast, and the toast to the Colton Village Produce Guild. The tables were decorated with flowers and corn, and there was also a collection of vegetables, and fruit staged in the room, and more flower arrangements.

The company was entertained to a film show of guild activities by Mr. S. J. Timmins, a few members had not previously seen the films, and along with those who have on several occasions greatly enjoyed viewing these, Mr Toy extended thanks to Mr Timmins.

The chairman reminded members about the county digging match at Mr G. E. D. Atkins ground Brookfield Farm, on the 14th, there should be nine competitors from Colton Guild. Mr Toy also spoke about the Guild Bulb show in February—bulbs (3 hyacinths or 4 daffodils) must be obtained from Mr. J. P. Peet.

Certificate for Colton village

TIMES 30/9/61

At Barton-under-Needwood, on Wednesday, Mrs. M. S. Toy, chairman of Colton Best Kept Village Committee, received the finalist's certificate (small villages section) won by Colton in the recent Best Kept Village competition. The occasion was the re-unveiling of the trophy in the Large Villages section won again by Barton-under-Needwood. Abbots Bromley also received their certificate.

Also attending from Colton were Mr. J. H. Toy, Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Timmins, and Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft. It is hoped to have the certificate framed to hang in the Reading Room in time for the Produce Guild's harvest supper next week.

FUND RAISING FOR COLTON ROOM

TIMES 4/10/61

A dance at Colton Reading Room on Friday was organised by the management committee in support of funds they seek to raise to defray the cost of putting the room in a reasonable state of renovation.

Al Robinson's band provided the music and Mr. Luke Mellor was steward. The room had been gaily decorated, refreshments were in the charge of Mrs. M. L. Waters and Mrs. P. M. Buckley, and competition prizes were an added attraction.

Competition prizes were won by Mr. J. Foster and Mr. R. Martin.

Colton school

The Rector of Colton, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, conducted the harvest service for schoolchildren in ...ry's Church on Friday, and ...rents were also present, in...me from as far afield as ...and Newton.

...ers (headmaster), who ...e festival, told the ...there were some novel ...ong the gifts brought ...cluding a bag of logs, ...il and tinned food.

...urvice children sang ...mpanied by Mrs. D. ...he lesson was read by ...ley.

...n harvest ...al service

...estival services at ...ch commenced on ...last week with even... ...d by the Rector, the ...wlson. The following ...s the children's day. ...f the church school

COLTON W.I. TALK ON BREAD

TIMES 23/9/61

At the September meeting of Colton W.I. Mrs. M. S. Toy, a vice-president, presided and welcomed three visitors: Mrs. J. T. G. Craddock (president of Slitting Mill W.I.), Mrs. D. Timmins and the mother of Mrs. D. E. Waters, who was on a visit from Yorkshire.

Mrs. Toy extended the congratulations of the president to all winners at the annual show, and thanks to the show committee. The financial statement sent by the treasurer, Mr. A. N. Felton, was passed round for inspection.

Mrs. Doyles, of the Bread Advisory Service, gave a talk on bread and some recipes, also answering questions. Members' thanks to her were expressed by Mrs. D. M. Atkin and Mrs. P. L. Bannister.

Tea hostesses were Mrs. Waters, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, and Mrs. H. A. Williscroft. The mystery prize and the competition prize for

THE BIG DIG

EIGHTEEN men, nine women — and 11-years-old Paul Nicholls — spent an hour of Saturday afternoon digging up part of a Colton farmer's field.

Looking on was Mr. G. Atkins of Bellamour Farm, who loaned the land.

The competitors, from Ashley, Standon, Colton, Colwich and Hanchurch, were taking part in a digging competition run by the Staffordshire Association of Village Produce Guilds.

Young Paul, son of the head gardener of Blithfield Hall, worked manfully at his man-sized plot. So did 76-years-old Tom Clarke from Standon.

Tom, his weather-beaten face creased with a smile, dug regularly and neatly, passing an occasional joke with his neighbours. "I don't find it all that hard. I am used to it, I've entered three other competitions in the past," he said.

Next to him was another Standon man, Albert Thorndyke. Albert, who came out in June after five months in hospital [illegible]

Digging in on Plot No. 2 is Miss H. Minnett, watched by the judges, Mr. R. K. Mowforth (centre) and Mr. F. W. Farrer (county chairman), whose job with pencil and paper was rather less exhausting.

Mr. Lewis expressed thanks to Mr. Atkin for the use of his land, to Colton Guild for arranging refreshments, and to the competitors.

Mr. Atkin said he was pleased that the event had taken place on his land. He thought it was a splendid idea for the various guilds to be able to get together in this way.

Competition prizes were won by Mrs. Hassall and Mrs. Bennion, both of Ashley.

Other members of Colton Guild who competed were Mr: G. L. Nicholls, Mr. Peter Preston, Mr. B. Devall, Mrs. F. Baker and Mrs. M. Ravenscroft.

Helping with teas were Mrs. Ivy Preston, Mrs. M. S. Toy, Miss D. Mountney, Mrs. E. Atkin, Mrs. E. M. E. Hibbs.

PARISH Councillors at Colton are fighting to save three local footpaths

And they have been climbing barbed wire and electric fences, going through private gardens and past a large bull to do it.

Voicing the protests of local villagers, farmer Jim Toy told the "Advertiser": "Everywhere we go we see notices telling us to keep death off the roads, but even when we want a nice, quiet walk we cannot get it."

To prove his point, he took reporters for a walk along a three-quarter mile path from Stockwell Heath to Colton village.

Fences

Pushing through long wet grass overhanging what was once a clear path, he said: "A review of every footpath in the area would not be a bad idea".

He climbed one of the fences cutting across the route. "An old person could never climb this" he said And added, minutes later as he ducked under a barbed-wire fence "Nor under this".

Passing a large white Shorthorn bull grazing in a field, Mr Toy said: "It has never caused any trouble, but that's not the point. People are frightened of bulls". He added "The parish council do a good job, away from his living-room windows these paths and it should use it".

As a result of a letter sent to the council, by Mr. Toy, councillors have been out to see for themselves One of them, Mr. Luke Mellor, said a full report would be presented at the next council meeting.

Problem

But Coun. Mellor has a problem of his own. A second path cuts straight through his garden. After the county Ramblers' Association had complained of an obstruction on this path, Mr. Mellor decided to apply for permission to divert it away from his living room windows.

"But I don't want to go to the expense of doing it just yet, because village plans, such as a sewerage scheme might mean yet another move."

The third path runs from the village to near Trent Valley railway station. It goes across farm land owned by Mr. George Cooper of Dairy Farm, Blithfield.

Farmer Cooper now wants to extend his farm buildings which means diverting the path.

"This would mean adding 300 yards to the journey of a tired man man coming home from work" said the chairman, Mr. Fred Hardcastle

Now the village is waiting for [illegible] Council to decide [illegible] been taken away.

COLTON

Rummage Sale.— A successful rummage sale was held in the Reading Room, Colton, on Saturday, organised by the Youth Club under the supervision of their leader Mr D. E. Waters. Over £22 was taken, and the proceeds are to be devoted to buying Christmas gifts for elderly people. Mr G. E. D. Atkin senr. acted as doorkeeper. Competition prizes were won by Miss Irene Martin, Mr J. Wright, Mr R. Martin, Mrs P. M. Buckley. Spot the ball, Miss Jane Boston and Dennis Hibbs arts, Mrs D. M. Preston and David oden.

Parish Council.—A meeting of olton Parish Council took place in te Reading Room on Friday. Mrs. L. Taylor who was away on holiy was the only member absent he chairman, Mr F. Hardcastle esided and also acted as Clerk the appointment of a new one. nutes of the previous meeting nfirmed, and the genda was the to replace Mr. ad resigned Mr as suggested at had sent a letthanking him e and the hard during his clerkle went on to ggested he had and Mrs. C. J. question of this nscroft had said rs. Ravenscroft assist in any y did not wish the clerkship tary or permanid that after

rummage help buy tmas gifts

e sale orgainsed by th Club under the f Mr. D. E. Waters. the Reading Room on lore than £22 was he purpose of buying fts for elderly people n winners were: Mr. rene Martin, Mr. R. Mrs. P. M. Buckley ball competition, run bbs, was won by Jane ennis Hibbs, and the in charge of Robert arry Preston was won Preston and David

were run by Ruth ylvia Goodall, Valerie arshall, Edna Logan, Edna Lycett. Mrs Mrs. P. Bannister Curtis.

COLTON

nce Sunday service ook the form of a short service at the War Memorial after the choir had walked from the Church. The service was attended by representatives of the mothers union, parish council, youth club, produce guild and womens institute. After the service a wreath was placed on the Memorial from the Parish Council by Mr. G. F. Upton. The pro-

EN SHARE THE DE-WORK IN DS' CONTEST

nd his 11 years-old son were among those t a digging match organised by the Staffordn of Village Produce Guilds and held, by G. E. D. Atkin, senr., at Brookfield Farm, rday.

The gardener was Mr. L. Nicholls who is employed at Blithfield Hall, and his son Paul, though not inclined at the moment to take up gardening as a livelihood, was among the prizewinners. Mr. Nicholls is a member of the Colton Guild.

The competition was divided into two sections — for men and women members of the guilds that entered. The 18 men competitors were set to work on 16 square yard plots, and the digging for the women covered patches of nine square yards.

The judges were Mr. F. W. Farrer, chairman of the county federation, and Mr. R. K. Mowforth, of the Staffordshire Farm Institute, Rodbaston.

The prizes were presented by Mr. J. W. Jones, of the Maer Guild, a former county chairman.

Mr. Tom Preston, a Colton smallholder and vice-chairman of the village guild, took first prize, and two Standon competitors, Mr. Elliott and Mr. A. Thorndyke, took second and third, respectively. An additional prize went to Mr. J. F. Peet, of Colton.

Miss Parton, of Ashley, took first award in the women's section, and another Ashley member, Mrs. Bradbury, was second, with Mrs. Hopkinson, of Colwich, third.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. J. Lewis, chairman of Colwich Guild, to the judges and to Mr. D. M. Gibb and Mr. Ryder, with the administrative

Women's [illegible] meeting

s Institute held ting in the Read- Mrs. I. Preston ued a new memmmins, and Mrs. her friend as p meeting to be aywood on Monrussed. to charge 1s. 6d. he new boiler to Reading Room. ess, a film show Mr. and Mrs. S. J. were thanked by

were Mrs. E. M. . M. Atkin and A bring-and-buy Mrs. D. Deacon. rize for articles f string was won and the mystery s. C. M. Sanders.

VOLTS, BARBS AND BULL

COLTON

The October meeting of the Colton Women's Institute took place in the reading room with the president, Mrs I. Preston, presiding.

After the singing of "Jerusalem" and the reading and confirming of the minutes, Mrs Preston welcomed Mrs M. Bigham and her friend as visitors, and Mrs D. Timmins was welcomed as a new member. The group meeting on the 23rd at Great Haywood was discussed, and Mrs V. Pratt agreed to go as delegate to the autumn council meeting at Stafford.

It was decided the charge to be made on the new boiler if hired out to any one using the reading room shall be 1s. 6d. It was announced that Mrs N. Jones will be going to Denman College in the near future. The remainder of the meeting was taken up viewing films shown by Mr J. A. Best, assisted by Mr and Mrs S. J. Timmins.

A vote of thanks to Mr Best and Mr and Mrs Timmins was proposed by Mrs M. L. Waters. Tea hostesses were Mrs E. M. Sargeant, Mrs D. M. Atkin and Mrs I. R. Brown. The stall was in charge of Mrs D. Deacon. The competition prize for articles strung on to a foot of string went to Mrs Jones, and the mystery prize to Mrs C. M. Sanders. The recent house to house collection for the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen, held in Colton parish, has raised £7 19s (with the contents of a home collecting box. Collectors were Mrs Ivy Preston and Mrs B. M. Ravenscroft (auxiliary secretary) who organised the collection.

COLTON

FARM COMPETITIONS.— The county digging match, organised by the County Federation of Village Produce Guilds was held at Brookfield Farm, Colton, the home of Mr. G. E. D. Atkin, sen. The judges were Mr. F W. Farrer (County Chairman) and Mr. R. K. Mowforth, of Rodbaston Farm Institute. Prizes were presented by Mr. J. W. Jones, of Maer Guild, a former County Chairman. First prize in the men's section went to Mr. Tom Preston (Vice-Chairman of Colton Guild), with Mr. E. Elliott (Standon) second and Mr. A. Thorndyke (Standon) third. An extra prize went to Mr. J. F. Peet, of Colton. First prize in the ladies' section was won by Miss Parton, of Ashley, with Mrs. Bradbury, of Ashley, second, and Mrs. Hopkinson, of Colwich, third. A prize was awarded to the only boy competitor, 11-years-old Paul Nicholls, of Colton Guild. Thanks to the judges were voiced by Mr. J. Lewis (Chairman, Colwich Guild). A competition for a box of chocolates was won by Mrs. Hassall, of Ashley, and Mrs. Bennion, of Ashley, won the competition for cigarettes. Teas were served by Mrs. Ivy Preston, Mrs. M. S. Toy, Miss D. M. Jones, Mrs. E. Aitkin, Mrs. E. H. Tabernor and Mrs. M. E. Hibbs.

FOR FISHERMEN. — The recent house-to-house collection for the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen held in Colton raised £7 19s. Collectors were Mrs. Ivy Preston and Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft (Auxiliary Secretary) who organised the collection.

BAR PUBLIC FOOTPATH

A PUBLIC footpath reported to be barred by electric and barbed wire fences, and made even more impassable by the presence of a bull in one of the fields through which it passes, was brought to the attention of Colton Parish Councillors at their meeting held in the Reading Room on Friday.

The footpath, leading from the yard of the Forge, to Stockwell Heath, was the subject of a letter from Mr. J. H. Toy, which was read to the council.

It was proposed that Councillors L. Mellor and G. F. Upton should walk along this path to inspect its condition and then, if necessary, the matter could be taken up with the landowners concerned.

Two other footpaths came under discussion. A letter was read from the Ramblers' Association, in which it was pointed out that since a house named Little Hey was built, a public path had passed through its garden.

Saving expense

Councillor Mellor, the house-owner, explained his reasons for delaying an application to divert the path. He pointed out that if he made the diversion at this time, when the new sewage scheme was being laid out, it could mean another diversion and further expense.

The meeting accepted Councillor Mellor's explanation for the delay and it was decided to notify the Ramblers' Association to this effect.

The third footpath under discussion was the one leading from the centre of Colton village to the Trent valley. Application had been made to Lichfield Rural Council by the owner of Rydal Farm, who wished to divert this frequently used path.

A copy of the plan of the proposed diversion did not find favour with the Parish Council, and it was decided to inform the R.D.C of their disapproval.

Councillor F. Hardcastle (chairman) said that if the plan were approved, it would add another 300 yards or more on to the journey of a tired person returning home from work.

Councillors Hardcastle and Upton had recently inspected this right-of-way and found the path had been rooted up by pigs, but some electric wire which had been the cause of a prevous complaint had been removed. It was felt that the path needed improving.

Clerk appointed

An earlier item was the appointment of a clerk. Councillor Hardcastle, who had filled the post temporarily since the resignation of Mr. S. J. Timmins, reported that he had sent a letter, on behalf of the council, to Mr. Timmins thanking him for the work he had done.

It was reported that since the vacancy for a clerk had been advertised, only one application had been received. The applicant was Mrs. P. M. Buckley and it was decided that she should be appointed.

A letter was read from Miss D. M. Jones (secretary of Colton Village Produce Guild) regarding the calling of a public meeting to debate the village hall question, and it was decided to convene a meeting in January, as this would give time to collect all the necessary information and to explore the possibilities of obtaining grants to improve the present Reading Room.

It was decided to adopt the suggestion of Councillor Mellor that a circular letter should be sent to every householder in the parish explaining the facts so that those attending the meeting would know what was involved.

A copy of the deed relating to the Reading Room, which was handed over to the parish by members of the Horsfall family, was read by Councillor Hardcastle. The deed recommended that the room should be known as a "Village Hall and Working Men's Club." No one present at the meeting could explain how it had become known as the Reading Room. This document also stated that the room could not be disposed of in any way without the authority of the committee of management.

It was decided that this matter be dealt with at the public meeting.

COLTON

Mothers' Union.— At the October meeting of the Colton Mothers' Union, held in the Reading Room, Mrs. J L Taylor (enrolling member) welcomed Mr. F W Elliott, Central Midlands Regional Organiser for the National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen.

Mrs. Taylor conducted a short service and Mr. Elliott read the lesson and gave a talk on the work of the Mission which showed how the money collected is used. Mr. Elliott told of his recent trip with fishermen on a fishing boat to Iceland.

A vote of thanks on members benalf was proposed by Mrs. E M Sargeant. Mr. Elliott said it was a pleasure to be asked to visit Colton Mothers Union, and extended thanks on benalf of the mission to those who gave their support in the recent house to house collection, and to the local Auxiliary Secretary for her efforts over the past three and a half years. A collection was taken in the room for the mission.

Whist.— A whist drive was held in the Village School, organised by the headmaster and teachers to provide funds for the pupils' Christmas party.

Mr. Percy Westhorpe was the MC and Mr. G E D Atkins (sen) presented the prizes to Mrs. G L Nicholls, Mr. R. Godridge, Mrs. M A Westhorpe Mr. H. Lane, Mrs. E. E. Myatt, Mr. G Hampson (jun) Mrs. A M Foster, Mr. J. Bloor, miniatures, Mrs. Nicholls, and Mr. H Foster; sealed numbers, Mrs J Meddings, and Mr. Eric Sargeant; lowest scores, Mrs. D M Atkin, and Mr. T R Martin; grocery parcels were won by Stella Williscroft, Mrs E Knight, Mrs. Sargeant, Mrs. P. L. Bannister Mrs. G E Tittensor, Mr J H Toy, Mrs. Nicholls, Mrs. D M Preston, Mrs. D Timmins and dressed doll, Mr. Leslie Colton.

Mr D E Waters thanked all those who had helped to make the effort the success it was.

COUNTY DIGGING MATCH

The County Digging Match organised by the County Federation of Village Produce Guilds, was held at Brookfield Farm by kind permission of Mr. G. E. D. Atkin (senior). The Judges were Mr. F. W. Farrer, County Chairman, and Mr. R. K. Mowforth of Rodbaston Farm Institute. Prizes were presented by Mr. J. N. Jones of Maer Guild who was for years County Chairman.

Winners were Gents—Mr. Tom Preston (Vice-Chairman of Colton Guild); 2nd Mr. Elliott (Standon); 3rd Mr. A. Thorndyke (Standon); extra prize Mr. J. F. Peet (Colton) and Ladies—Miss Parton (Ashley); 2nd Mrs. Bradbury (Ashley); 3rd Mrs. Hopkinson (Colwich). A prize was awarded to the only boy competitor 11 year-old Paul Nicholls (Colton Guild) whose father is gardener at Blithfield Hall.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. J. Lewis (Chairman of Colwich Guild) to the judges, Mr. D. M. Gibb and Mr. Ryder, and to Mr. Atkin for the use of his land.

Competition prizes were won by Mrs. Hassall (Ashley) chocolates and Mrs. Bennion (Ashley) cigarettes. Other members of Colton Guild in the match were, Mr. G. L. Nicholls, Mr. Peter Preston, Mr. J. Devall, Mrs. F. Baker and Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft. Ladies

Colton Mothers' Union

At the October meeting of the Colton Mothers' Union held in the Reading Room, Mrs. J. L. Taylor (enrolling member) welcomed Mr. F. W. Elliott, Central Midlands Regional Organiser for the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen. Mrs. Taylor conducted a short service, the hymn sang being "Holy Father in Thy Mercy". Mr. Elliott read the lesson and gave an interesting talk on the work of the Mission.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs. E. M. Sargeant.

Colton interest in deep sea fishermen

At the October meeting of Colton Mothers' Union, held in the Reading Room, Mrs. J. L. Taylor (enrolling member) welcomed Mr. F. W. Elliott, regional organiser for the Royal National Mission for Deep Sea Fishermen. Mrs. Taylor conducted a short service, and Mr. Elliott, who read the lesson, afterwards gave an interesting talk on the work of the Mission.

He told of his recent voyage with fishermen to Iceland, and he spoke of the many dangers faced by these men. He also explained how the money collected for the Mission was used, and thanked all who supported the recent house-to-house collection at Colton and the local auxiliary secretary.

Mr. Elliott was thanked and a collection was taken for the Mission.

A SPECIAL session of examinations was held at the Rugeley Studio of Dancing (Colton and Rugeley) by the Royal Academy of Dancin. for the Ballet-in-Education children's grades. All 30 candidates were successful.

...LY DEANERY FESTIVAL.
...our Deanery Festival this year on
...at S. Luke's Church, Cannock. There

TIMES

GERALDINE GOES TO COLTON

... reporter Ruth Ravenscroft interviewing sister Gwen

...TON is a modest
...ittle village in-
...l towards hiding
... (agricultural)
... under the pro-
...l bushel.

...ere was nothing to
... the slightest hint of
...ould expect in warm
...contacts as the day

... met Mrs. Blanche M.
...ft of Holly Cottage, and
... sitting at a family table
...jolly young girls, daugh-
... the house---Ruth and

...Ravenscroft lived at
...a girl, attending Sunday
...t afterwards dwelt for
... the nearby parish of
...e from which she
...d and came straight to
...age 20 years ago.

Mrs. Blanche M. Ravenscroft

...band was organist of
...rch for 32 years, Clerk
...h Council for 25 years
...he left school he has
...public speaking to best

"My two sons run the farm," she told me. "They have done ever since their father's death."

From Persia

Both boys are married—Douglas George has a small daughter Jane (3) and Luke has two children—Johanna (3) and Matthew Luke (7 months)."

I was in luck's way, for her daughter, Monica, was home from Persia after four years absence. She is Mrs. H. Fateh, with two small children—Michael and Mark. Her husband is a civil engineer.

They met at Manchester University while she was studying social administration.

Mrs. Fateh is an old girl of Stafford High School, and was telling me that son Michael is bi-lingual. (Mark as yet had little to say for himself—but his great, brown eyes are eloquent enough.)

Mrs. Taylor is a member of the parochial church council, enrolling member of the Mothers' Union, has been parish councillor for 15 years.

She has been president of the institute for many years at different periods of three years—nine years in all. "And now I am Parkside Group Convener for the past three years."

Manor Farm, during the war years, gave a hospitable welcome to half Birmingham and Walsall—"who came to experience the joy of an uninterrupted night's sleep—there was never an empty bed in the many rooms."

After another glance at the old Early English dresser and a magnificently carved settle that had come from Hoar Cross Hall, I moved across the terrace to another wing where son Farmer George and his wife Greta live with their daughter, Jane.

A grand piano in the sitting-room suggested a player. "I haven't played for years" confessed Mrs. George Mellor.

"My people own the Dun Cow," she said. "We've been in Colton about 20 years, although we're Sutton Coldfield folk in our roots.

"I was in the licensing business before I married. Had 25 years of it, in fact—which didn't leave me any time for anything else."

A little gardening is her only indulgence Sowedays—home, husband and family completely

The house that Jack (Brown) built for Mummy and Rachel

concerned wit...
to smallholde...
modernise the...

Raconte...

The Toys en...
own court, ga...
fond of cricket...
ful raconteur."

Mrs. Toy is ...
gal. Her folks...
about 1910. Sh...
House School ...
then to Stafford...
to college in L...
London teaching...
get married.

Mrs. Toy, be...
cake-making pr...
knitter, an art...
and an inspired...

You can't be...
without hearing...
Tottie' who is a...
and a true daugh...
—Mrs. S. E. Jor...
tage whose roo...
200 years on h...

Her husband ...
there are three c...
and a daughter.

Her boys Sam...
live in the villa...
Lillian—Mrs. Ge...
was over on a vi...
band whom I al...
sure of meeting.

It is a source...
that there are sev...
and three great-g...

Ask Mrs. Jones ...
doing best and ...
once: "Feeding m...
her what she enjo...
and the answer co...
"Duck".

I wanted to k...
of the name 'Bla...
learned that it wa...
by Dr. Holland w...
an admirer of ...
House.

After all, I w...
finding Mr. and Mr...
at home, although ...
that a temporary in...
kept Colton's bui...
tractor confined to...

Mr. Hardcastle ...
the Parish Council...
District Councillor...
terested in the Bes...
Committee, the S...
Community Council...
years he was a m...

RUGELY DEANERY FESTIVAL.

We held our Deanery Festival this year on July 5th, at S. Luke's Church, Cannock. There was a splendid gathering of Members from all the Branches in the Deanery. The service was conducted by the Vicar of Cannock the Rev. H. L. H. Townsend, assisted by the Rev. J. W. Marsh, Vicar of Gt. Wryley, and the Rev. C. J. A. Payton, Vicar of Abbots Bromley. The address was given by the Rev. R. A. Casson, Vicar of Brereton, who took his text from Proverbs chap. 9, verse 10. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." In the course of his address he stressed the importance of "Mum's" influence in the early part of a child's life. During the singing of the first hymn the Branch Banners were carried in procession to be placed in the Sanctuary for the service. After the service they were carried back outside the Church door while the congregation came out. We were very pleased to have Mrs. Stackhouse our Archdiaconal Vice-President with us on this occasion. A collection was taken for M.U. Work Overseas, and Save the Children Fund. Tea was provided in the New Hall, Cannock, by the Members of S. Lukes M.U. Everyone agreed the afternoon had been most enjoyable, and inspiring.

TIMES. 14/10/61

Colton Guild celebrate harvest

TIMES 14/10/61

COLTON Village Produce Guild held their first harvest supper in the Reading Room on Thursday of last week, and it proved an enjoyable evening for upwards of 40 members who attended. They were welcomed by Mr. J. H. Toy (chairman), and Mr. Jack Brown was toastmaster.

The plentiful repast included boiled beef, home-made bread rolls, salad, pickles, fruit pies and cream, cheese and biscuits, and there was a choice of several home-made wines, including comfrey, elderberry damson, hock, "jungle juice", parsnip and mangold. Tables were decorated with flowers and corn, and vegetables, fruit and flowers were artistically arranged about the room.

The meal over, tables were cleared and the members were entertained with a film showo of Guild activities by Mr. S. J. Timmins.

Mr. Toy thanked Mr. Timmins and reminded members of the county digging match to be held at Brookfield Farm, belonging to Mr G. E. D. Atkins, today (Saturday). There will be nine competitors from Colton Guild.

He concluded by giving details of the Guild's bulb show to be staged in Peomary. Bulbs — three hyacinths or four daffodils—must be obtained from Mr. J. F. Peet.

20/10/61

The October meeting of Colton W.I. took place in the Reading Room with the President, Mrs. I. Preston, presiding. She welcomed Mrs. M. Bigham and her friend as visitors, and Mrs. D. Timmins was welcomed as a new member. The group meeting at Great Haywood was discussed, and Mrs. V. Pratt agreed to go as delegate to the Autumn Council meeting at Stafford. It was announced that Mrs. N. Jones will be going to Denman College soon. Films were shown by Mr. J. A. Best, assisted by Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Timmins. A vote of thanks to Mr. Best and Mr. and Mrs. Timmins was proposed by Mrs. M. L. Waters. Tea hostesses were Mrs. E. M. Sargeant, Mrs. D. M. Atkin and Mrs. I. R. Brown. The stall was in the charge of Mrs. D. Deacon. The competition prize for articles strung on to a foot of string went to Mrs. Jones, and the mystery prize to Mrs. C. M. Sanders. MERCURY

Competitions were ... dinner and an advertiser was won by Mrs. Thread

Tables were decora... flowers and fruit by the ... bers and prizes for ... arrangements went to M... Mrs. E. Seaton and ... Hopper. Raffle prizes were won by Mr. G. Horton and Mrs. Randle, and the Kims game winners were Miss B. Harrison, Mrs. A. Holden and Miss Baines. Mr. A. Stubbs was the pianist for the games and the community singing which rounded off the evening.

... Bannister, Mrs. G. E. Tittensor, Mr. J. H. Toy, Mrs. Nichols, Mrs. D. M. Preston, Ann Turner and Mrs. D. Timmins.

Mr. D. E. Waters (headmaster) thanked all who had helped to make the effort such a success.

Colton Village Produce Guild

Mercury 10/11/61

At the November meeting of the Colton Village Produce G... Mr. T. Preston (Vice-cha... presided. Miss K. Leadbitt... welcomed as a visitor. A... from Mr. Gibb, as Secret... the County Association of ... Produce Guilds sent to Mr ... D. Atkin, senr., expresse... thanks of the County Ex... for all help given in the ... digging match. Congratu... from the guild were expre... Mr. T. Preston on his havi... first prize in this event.

It was decided a letter ... test be sent to Committ... Management of the ... Room regarding increase... charges of the Room. ... felt that the charge for ... room used for Committee ... ings was unreasonable.

The Chairman welcome... Miller from Rodbaston Fa... stitute who gave an inte... talk on House Plants, b... along a good collection t... trate her talk. A vote of ... was proposed by Mrs...

COLTON

Mercury 17/11/61

The November meeting of Colton W.I. was held in the Reading Room on Wednesday last week. Mrs. I Preston, President presided and welcomed Mrs. E. Bennett as a new member. The County Letter was also read. It was decided that the charge for refreshments be revised, it being felt that one penny for each item was out of date, and in future the price will be twopence each item. Members were told that the hire charges for the room had increased, and that a letter of protest had been sent about the charge for the small room for committee meetings. It was understood that the Management Committee were willing to re-consider this, and would ask for a representative from the W.I. to be on the entertainment committee. Mrs. C. M. Sanders agreed to attend. The President welcomed Mrs. S. Monckton, J.P., who gave an interesting talk on "The Work of a Magistrate." A vote of thanks was proposed by

Work for rural community

TIMES 11/11/61

SIR—In your issue of October 28, I was most interested to note the comments of "Spectator," particularly with reference to the Staffordshire Rural Community Council and its agencies. This type of comment is most helpful to our work. I am sure you will appreciate that we have constantly to be aware of the need for publicity, owing to the continual change of personnel in the organisations we try to serve.

We shall always be pleased to

Colton Mothers' Union

Mercury

At the November meeting of St. Mary's Mothers' Union held in the Colton Reading Room, Mrs. J. L. Taylor Enrolling Member extended a welcome to the Rev. N. R. Torrington, Vicar of Rugeley, on his first visit to Colton. After conducting the service, Mr. Torrington gave an inspiring talk, taking as his subject, 'Sunday.'

Mrs. Ivy Preston expressed members' thanks. The nymn 'Jesu the very thought of Thee' and the Magnificat were sung.

It was thought that as the hire

Report by B.M.R.

PARKSIDE W.I GROUP WEEK AT HAYWOOD

THE autumn meeting of Parkside Group of Women's Institutes took place at the Memorial Hall, Great Haywood, on Monday, when members were present from Abbots Bromley, Blithfield, Colton, Kingstone and Marchington Woodlands. They were welcomed by Mrs. A. Hopper (chairman), who was introduced by Mrs. J. L. Taylor (convenor).

Mrs. L. W. Gibson, a county representative, gave details of county activities, including the International Day at Stafford on November 9. She was thanked by Mrs. Hopper. It was decided that the spring meeting should be held at Kingstone on March 26 (provisional date).

An interesting display of coloured slides of a holiday in America, was given by Mr. Tweedie, assisted by Mrs. Powell. Some of the views were taken in Cleveland, Ohio, and were of special interest by reason of the fact that this is the home of Mrs. Andrews, formerly a Miss Mellor, of Kingstone, and a sister-in-law of the group convener. Mrs. Andrews was seen on some of the pictures. The Niagara Falls and shots of New York were also seen.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Tweedie and Mrs. Powell was proposed by Mrs. H. Foster (Great Haywood) and seconded by Miss D. M. Jones (Colton).

A competition for a crepe paper hat was judged by Mrs. Powell and Mrs. Gibson, the prizes being awarded to:— 1, Mrs. P. M. Buckley (Colton); 2, Miss Doreen Capewell (Kingstone); highly commended, Mrs. F. Warrington (Kingstone).

A competition for blackberry jelly was Mrs. Powell and Mr. T winners being Mrs. Nobu Shaw (both of Marching lands).

The judges were th Mrs. E. Lyons (Abbots and Miss M. Lane (Blithfield).

The mystery prize was won by Mrs. Jones (Great Haywood).

Social time consisted of musical games, after which a vote of thanks to the hostess institute was proposed by Mrs. Hibbert (Marchington) and seconded by Mrs. Smith (Kingstone).

A suggestion that Marchington should join the Parkside Group was accepted by the meeting and is to be put forward for county

The social time consisted of musical games

Pictured above are W.I. members attending the Parkside Group meeting. A feature of the evening was a paper hat competition. Winners (seated, left to right) were: 1, Mrs. P. M. Buckley (Colton); 2, Miss D. Capewell (Kingstone); h.c., Mrs. F. Warrington (Kingstone). Also pictured (right) are Mrs. Vivian (Abbots Bromley) and Mrs. Excell (Blithfield).

COLTON PRODUCE GUILD

COLTON PRODUCE GUILD.—Mr. T. Preston (Vice-Chairman) presided at the November meeting of Colton Produce Guild and Miss K. Leadbitter was welcomed as a visitor. Mr. T. Preston was congratulated on having won first prize in the recent digging match. Mrs. Miller, of Rodbaston Farm Institute, who was accompanied by her husband, gave a talk on house plants, illustrated with specimens. She was thanked by Mrs. I. R. Brown. Competitions, judged

COLTON P.C.C. MEETING

At a recent meeting of Colton St. Mary's Parochial Church Council, held in the Village School, owing to the unavoidable late arrival of the Rector (Rev. A. S. Towlson) the Chairman was Mr. J. Tittensor (Vice-Chairman and Rector's Warden).

It was decided to appoint Mr. Arthur Irvine Douglas Collins, to be Parish Clerk and Verger, Mr. Collins has been acting as clerk since the death of Mr. F. W. Cooper.

A discussion took place about the church collections, which without the annual Garden Party would not meet the day to day expenses of the Church it was explained by Mr. Maurice Willscroft (Peoples Warden). Mr. D. E. Waters proposed the introduction of a 'Free Will Offering' envelope scheme and this being seconded by Mr. C. M. Boycott, it was carried.

On the proposal of Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, it was decided Advent Sunday would be a good day to commence the scheme.

The Rector said that for the Service on Remembrance Sunday, he hoped the weather would be favourable to hold a short service at the War Memorial, followed by a procession to church.

PARKSIDE GROUP

The autumn meeting of the Parkside Group was held at Great Haywood. Mrs. J. L. Taylor the Convener, introduced Mrs. Hopper, the chairman of the meeting, who welcomed Women's Institute members from Abbots Bromley, Blithfield Colton, Kingstone and Marchington Woodlands.

Mrs. L. W. Gibson, the County representative gave details of County activities.

An interesting display of coloured slides given by Mr. Tweedie, assisted by Mrs. Powel, was of "A holiday in America." The slides of views taken in Cleveland, Ohio (including the home of Mrs. Andrews, a former Miss Mellor, who was born at Callow Hill, Kingstone, and is the sister-in-law of the Group Convener), the Niagara Falls and New York.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs. H. Foster (Great Haywood) seconded Miss D. M. Jones (Colton).

The competition for a crepe paper hat was judged by Mrs. Powell and Mrs. Gibson, who awarded the prizes to: Mrs. P. M. Buckley (Colton) and Miss Doreen Capewell (Kingstone); Mrs. Warrington (Kingstone) was highly commended. The competition for a jar of blackberry jelly, judged by Mrs. Powell and Mr. Tweedie, was won by Mrs. Nobut and Mrs. Shaw (both of Marchington Woodlands). The mystery prize went to Mrs. Jones (Great Haywood).

A suggestion that Marchington W.I. join the Parkside Group was accepted by the meeting and will be put forward for the approval of the County.

PARKSIDE W.I. GROUP

AUTUMN MEETING AT GREAT HAYWOOD

The autumn meeting of the Parkside Group took place at Great Haywood Mrs. J. L. Taylor, the convener, introduced Mrs. Hopper (Chairman of the meeting), who extended a welcome to Women's Institute members from Abbots Bromley, Blithfield, Colton Kingstone and Marchington Woodlands.

After the singing of "Jerusalem," Mrs. Taylor read the minutes of the spring meeting held at Blithfield and these were confirmed and the financial statement approved.

Mrs. L. W. Gibson (County Representative), who expressed her pleasure at being invited, gave details of county activities, including the International Day at Stafford on November 9.

She was thanked by Mrs. Hopper.

Next item dealt with was the spring meeting, which will be held at Kingstone, the date provisionally fixed being March 26.

Following the business, a very interesting display of coloured film slides was given by Mr. Tweedie, assisted by Mrs. Powell, of "A Holiday in America." Views taken in Cleveland, Ohio, were of local interest on account of it being the home of Mrs. Andrews, formerly Miss Mellor, who was born at Callow hill, Kingstone, and is the sister-in-law of the group convener. Mrs. Andrews was seen in some of the pictures, which showed the Niagara Falls and one or two shots of New York.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Tweedie and Mrs. Powell was proposed by Mrs. H. Foster (Great Haywood), seconded by Miss D. M. Jones (Colton).

The competition for a crepe paper hat was judged by Mrs. Powell and Mrs. Gibson, who awarded the prizes to Mrs. P. M. Buckley (Colton) and Miss Doreen Capewell (Kingstone), with Mrs. Warrington (Kingstone) being highly commended.

The competition for a jar of blackberry jelly, judged by Mrs. Powell and Mr. Tweedie was won by Mrs. Nobut and Mrs. Shaw (both of Marchington Woodlands).

Thanks to the judges were proposed by Mrs Lyons (Abbots Bromley) and seconded by Miss M. Lane (Blithfield).

The mystery prize went to Mrs. Jones (Great Haywood).

A suggestion that Marchington should join the Parkside Group was accepted by the meeting and will be put forward for the approval of the County.

The social time was occupied with musical games.

A vote of thanks to the hostess institute was proposed by Mrs. Hibbert (Marchington Woodlands), seconded by Mrs. Smith (Kingstone).

COLTON WHIST DRIVE HELPS GUILD FUNDS

Colton Village Produce Guild held a successful whist drive in St. Mary's School on Friday, in aid of guild funds. Mr. P. Westhorpe was M.C., and Miss D. M. Jones (guild secretary) presented prizes to the following:—Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, Mr. F. S. Knight, junr., Miss Mary Preston, Mr. G. Hampson, junr., Mrs. B. Judkins, Mrs. A. N. Felton, Mrs. K. Martin, Mrs. B. Shelley, Mrs.

PARKSIDE GROUP

The autumn meeting of the Parkside Group took place at Great Haywood, Mrs. J. L. Taylor, the convener, introduced Mrs. Hopper, the chairman of the meeting, who extended a welcome to Women's Institute members from Abbots Bromley, Blithfield, Colton, Kingstone, and Marchington Woodlands. The meeting commenced with the singing of "Jerusalem." Mrs. Taylor read the minutes of the spring meeting held at Blithfield and these were confirmed. The financial statement was also presented and approved. Mrs. L. W Gibson, county representative, gave details of county activities, including the International Day at Stafford on November 9. She was thanked by Mrs. Hopper. Next item dealt with was the spring meeting, which will be held at Kingstone, the date fixed (provisionally), March 26. Following business, a very interesting display of coloured film slides was given by Mr. Tweedie, assisted by Mrs. Powell, of "A holiday in America," views taken in Cleveland, Ohio (these being of local interest on account of being the home of Mrs Andrews, a former Miss Mellor, who was born at Callow Hill, Kingstone, and is the sister-in-law of the group convener). Mrs. Andrews was seen in some of these views. The Niagara Falls and also one or two shots of thanks to Mr Tweedie and Mrs. New York were seen. A vote of Powell was proposed by Mrs. H. Foster (Great Haywood), seconded by Miss D. M. Jones (Colton). The competition for a crepe paper hat was judged by Mrs. Powell and Mrs. Gibson, who awarded the prizes to Mrs. P. M. Buckley (Colton) and Miss Doreen Capewell (Kingstone), with Mrs. Warrington (Kingstone) being highly commended. The competition for a jar of blackberry jelly — judged by Mrs. Powell and Mr. Tweedie — was won by Mrs. Nobut and Mrs. Shaw (both of Marchington Woodlands). Thanks to the judges was proposed by Mrs Lyons (Abbots Bromley), seconded by Miss M Lane (Blithfield). The mystery prize went to Mrs. Jones (Great Haywood). A suggestion that Marchington join the Parkside Group was accepted by the meeting and will be put forward for the approval of the county. The social time consisted of musical games. A vote of thanks to the hostess institute was proposed by Mrs. Hibbert (Marchington Woodlands), seconded by Mrs. Smith (Kingstone). The singing of the National Anthem closed the meeting.

Colton Church to have free-will offering scheme

At a recent meeting of St. Mary's Parochial Church Council, Colton, the appointment of Mr. A. I. D. Collins as parish clerk and verger was confirmed. Mr. Collins had been acting clerk since the death of Mr. F. W. Cooper.

During a discussion on church finances, Mr Maurice Williscroft said the collections were not sufficient to meet the day-to-day expenses of the church and needed the support of the annual garden party.

Mr. D. E. Waters proposed that a free-will offering envelope scheme be introduced. This was seconded by Mr. C. M. Boycott and carried. It would be an entirely voluntary scheme, said Mr. Waters. He knew of elderly people unable to attend church in the winter who would still like to feel that they had given their collection. This scheme would give such people an opportunity to contribute.

It was decided to accept Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft's suggestion of starting the scheme on Advent Sunday.

The Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, said there would be a short service at the war memorial on Remembrance Sunday, if the weather was fine, followed by a procession to church, headed by the choir and members of the Mothers' Union.

He thought it would be a good idea to invite members of the

COLTON

Church Council.—At a recent meeting of Colton St. Mary's parochial church council, held in the Village School, owing to the unavoidable late arrival of the Rector (Rev. A S Towlson), the chairman Miss D A Cooper read the minutes. These were confirmed It was decided to appoint Mr. Arthur Irvine Douglas Collins, to be parish clerk and verger, Mr. Collins has been acting as clerk since the death of Mr. Frank William Cooper and carried out the duties satisfactorily, and is interested in the work of the church and verger.

There was a discussion regarding the church collections (there was not the annual garden party, which does not meet the day-to-day expenses of the church). This was explained by Mr. Maurice Williscroft (people's warden). Mr. D E Waters proposed the introduction of a free will offering envelope scheme this being seconded by Mr. C M Boycott, and carried. This scheme is entirely voluntary Mr. Waters said he knew of elderly people saying that they were unable to attend church in the winter, but would still like to feel they gave their collection. He thought this scheme would give them every opportunity to do so. On the proposal of Mrs B M Ravenscroft, it was decided that Advent Sunday would be a good day to commence this scheme. The rector stated that as regards the service on Remembrance Sunday, he hoped the weather would be favourable to have a short service at the Memorial, followed by a procession to church headed by the choir and Mothers' Union, he also thought it would be a good idea to invite members of the parish council, youth club, produce guild and others to join in, This was agreed.

Produce Guild.—At the November meeting of the Colton Produce Guild, Mr T. Preston, vice-chairman, presided. Miss K. Leadbitter was welcomed as a visitor. Minutes were read and confirmed. Letters read included one from Miss D. A. Cooper on behalf of the Rector (Rev. A. S. Towlson) inviting the service of remembrance on November 12th next. A letter was read from Mr D. M. Gibb (secretary of the Rural Community Council) appealing for a donation to the funds of the R.C.C. It was decided to have a bring and buy stall at the December meeting for this. A letter from Mr Gibb as secretary of the County Association of Produce Guilds sent to Mr. Atkin (sen.) expressed the thanks of the County Executive for all help given in the recent digging match. Congratulations from the guild were expressed to Mr T. Preston on his having won first prize in this event. Final details in connection with the whist drive for guild funds on December 1st were settled. It was decided a letter of protest be sent to committee of management of the reading room regarding the increased hire charges of the room. It was felt that the charge for small room used for committee meetings was unreasonable. The chairman welcomed Mrs Miller from Rodbaston Farm Institute, who was accompanied by her husband. Mrs Miller gave a helpful talk on house plants, and had brought along a good collection of these to illustrate her talk, and also invited questions. A vote of thanks on members behalf to Mrs. Miller was proposed by Mrs I. R. Brown. The competitions judged by Mr and Mrs Miller were won by Mr. Roy Bridgens, with three beetroot, and Mr W. Preston with a house plant. Tea hostesses were Mrs H. M Felton and Mrs E. M. Sargeant, assisted by Miss E. Rotchell and Miss K. Leadbitter. Regarding the show committee, Mr S. J. Timmins said that not knowing what commitments he might have he felt it best not to be on next year's show committee

Committee

The Show Committee of Colton Village Produce Guild and W.I. 1962 Show have elected Mr. G. L. Nicholls to be their Chairman

COLTON ROOM HIRE PROTEST

At the November meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild, Mr. T. Preston (vice-chairman) presiding, it was decided that a letter of protest should be sent to the Committee of Management of the Reading Room regarding the increased hire charges. Members felt that the charge for the use of the small room for committee meetings was unreasonable.

Mrs. Miller, of Rodbaston Farm Institute, was welcomed to the meeting. She gave an interesting and helpful talk on house plants and brought a collection with which to illustrate her talk. She also answered questions. She was thanked by Mrs. I. R. Brown.

At the outset, Mr. Preston had welcomed Miss K. Leadbitter, a visitor, and a letter was read from the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, inviting members to take part in the service of Remembrance on Sunday.

An appeal from the Staffordshire Rural Community Council for a donation was read, and it was decided to arrange a bring and buy stall at the December meeting to help the fund.

From the Association of Village Produce Guilds came a letter of thanks, sent to Mr. G. E. D. Atkins, Senr., for the help given in the recent county digging match.

Congratulations from the guild were expressed to Mr. T. Preston on his having won first prize in this event.

Details were arranged for a whist drive to be held on December 1 in aid of guild funds.

Competitions, judged by Mr. and Mrs. Miller, were won by Mr. R. Bridgens (three beetroot), and Mr. W. Preston (house plant).

Tea hostesses were Mrs. H. M. Felton and Mrs. E. M. Sargeant, assisted by Miss E. Rotchell and Miss K. Leadbitter.

COLTON

At Colton, the commemoration took the form of a service at the War Memorial, during which the two minutes' silence was observed. The choir, led by Leslie Collins bearing the cross, and followed by the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson and the diocesan reader, Mr. D. E. Waters, with the wardens, walked in procession from St. Mary's Church to the Pinfold.

The service was attended by representatives of the Parish Council, Mothers' Union, Youth Club, Village Produce Guild and Women's Institute.

After the service, Mr. G. F. Upton placed a wreath on the memorial on behalf of the Parish Council.

A procession was then formed for the return to church. The M.U. banner was carried by Mrs. J. L. Taylor, with Mrs. L. Bettson and Mrs B. M Ravenscroft as escorts. Holy Communion was celebrated after the service.

ing at the service conducted by the Rector, the Rev. A. Stanley Towlson, Memorial.

"TIMES" 18/11/61

COLTON 16/11/61

Remembrance Sunday Service at Colton took the form of a short service at the War Memorial after the choir had walked from the Church. The Cross Bearer was Leslie Collins. The service being attended by representatives of Mothers' Union, Parish Council, Youth Club, Produce Guild and Women's Institute. After the service a wreath was placed on the Memorial from the Parish Council sion back to the Church was led by the choir, churchwardens, and Mothers' Union, their banner being carried by Mrs. J. L. Taylor, with Mrs. L. Bettson, and Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft as escorts. Holy Communion concluded the service.

COLTON 3/4/61

Mothers' Union.—At the November meeting of St. Mary's Mothers' Union held in the Reading Room, on the 21st. Mrs J. L Taylor, enrolling member, extended a welcome to the Rev. N. R. Torrington vicar of Rugeley, on his first visit to Colton. After conducting the service, the Rev. Torrington gave a talk, taking as his subject "Sunday," he recalled how he as a child spent his Sundays, very different from the way Sunday is spent to-day. Mrs. Ivy Preston expressed thanks to the Rev. Torrington. Mrs Taylor said that at an enrolling members' meeting it had been suggested that a presentation be made to the retiring deanery presiding member, Mrs. Mary Arnold, who has held office for nine years, and been at all times most helpful to branches in the Rugeley Deanery. It was decided that the treasurer send a donation for this purpose to Mrs. H B Croft, of Cannock. It was thought that as the hire charges on the reading room have increased it may be necessary to organise some sort of small effort for the funds in a few months time.

Dance.—A dance was held in the Reading Room on Nov. 24th, organised by the committee of management of the reading room to benefit the fund for renovation of the Room Al Robinson's band provided the music. The winner of the bottle of sherry was Mr J. Foster, and the doorkeeper was Mr Maurice Willis-croft, while Mrs P. M. Buckley had charge of the refreshments. It is hoped to include a children's fancy

COLTON 18/1/62

A pleasant evening was spent by Colton Women's Institute members at their January meeting held in the Reading Room. The minutes of the December meeting were read and confirmed and Mrs. M. Bigham was welcomed as a new member. Business matters were few, and included arrangements for the New Year party, the pantomime outing on January '24 and a few details regarding the Spring meeting of the Park Side Group to be held at Kingstone on March 26. A letter was read giving County approval to the suggestion that Marchington join the Parkside Group.

Mrs. N. Jones gave a report of her recent stay at Denman College and exhibited work she had done. Mrs Jones was thanked by Mrs. B M Ravenscroft. The visiting speaker for the evening was Miss Vince

REFRESHMENTS TOO CHEAP AT COLTON W.I.

"TIMES" 15/11/61

Members of Colton Women's Institute, at their November meeting, presided over by Mrs. I. Preston, decided that the charge of one penny for each item of refreshments was out of date and agreed that they should increase payment to two-pence.

Mrs. E. Bennett was welcomed as a new member.

Members were told that hire charges for the Reading Room had increased and that a letter of protest had been sent regarding the charge for the use of the small room. It was understood that the Management Committee of the Reading Room were willing to reconsider this and asked for a Women's Institute representative to serve on their Entertainment Committee. Mrs. C. M. Sanders agreed to serve.

A talk on the work of a magistrate was given by Mrs. Sheila Monckton, who is a Justice of the Peace, she was thanked on the proposition of Miss D. M. Jones.

A competition for three mince pies was judged by Mrs. Monckton and the prize was awarded to Mrs. H. A. Williscroft. The mystery prize went to Mrs. L. Bettson.

Mrs. D. M. Atkin was in charge of

22/12/61 COLTON Mercury

At the December meeting of Colton W.I. in the Reading Room, the President, Mrs. I. Preston, welcomed Mrs. J. T. G. Craddock (President of Slitting Mill W.I.) and other visitors. Invitations were accepted from Slitting Mill and Etching Hill W.I.'s to attend their parties, and Colton New Year party was fixed for the third Wednesday in January. It was agreed a collection of pennies be taken re the Friendship appeal of Associated Country Women of the World. Mrs. D. M. Atkin attended to this. Games were organised by Mrs. J. L. Taylor, Mrs. N. Jones and Mrs. Atkin. Carol singing was enjoyed, Miss D. M. Jones being at the piano. Mrs. Taylor thanked Miss Jones for playing. At the Christmas stall run by Mrs. Jones and Miss Ellen Rotchell, £7 1s. was made. The mystery prize was won by Mrs. E. M. Sargeant. For the

Colton club warms the hearths of old age pensioners

"TIMES" 18/11/61

DURING the next week or so 47 Colton people will be receiving a bag of good quality coal each, plus a bag of logs. This is a gift from members of Colton Youth Club, who raised £22 at a recent rummage sale. The recipients are old age pensioners, widows and other deserving cases, and most of the gifts will be taken to the old people by club members themselves.

In addition, the members will be collecting again for the Christmas presents for the Blind Appeal. Last year they collected a total of £5.

As a new venture Thursday evenings this year are usually devoted to interesting talks and activities. Already the club has been visited by officers of St. John Ambulance Brigade, there has been an evening of films, special coaching sessions in table tennis and a tape recorder evening. Before Christmas, visits will be paid by a police officer, a probation officer and Mr. Jack Brown, the local expert on folk dancing.

COLTON 5/1/62

PROPOSED VILLAGE HALL.—Colton Parish Council decided at their last meeting that a public meeting regarding the proposed Village Hall be held on Thursday, January 25th. Meanwhile, circulars explaining the various matters involved are to be distributed to each household in the village, together with a questionnaire which those unable to attend the meeting can complete.

FANCY DRESS DANCE.—The fancy dress dance arranged by Colton Reading Room Management Committee was not well supported. Those who received prizes were: Pearl Haynes (Mistletoe), Gwendoline Ravenscroft (Christmas cracker), Marilyn Collins (Bo-Peep), and Ann Haynes (Gypsy). Competition winners were Mr.

COLTON 15/12/61

PRODUCE GUILD.—At the December meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild, held in the Reading Room, and at which the Chairman (Mr. J. H. Toy) presided, Mrs. A. N. Hillier gave a delightful talk on "Travel" by various means of transport, from her childhood to the present day. Apart from the British Isles, members went in imagination to New Zealand, the Fiji Isles, Iceland, Germany, France, Switzerland and the Hawaiian Isles. Thanks to the speaker were expressed by Miss R. B. Ravenscroft. A bring-and-buy stall, arranged for Rural Community Council funds, was in charge of Mrs. Dora Deacon assisted by Mr. Felton. A competition (for a boiling fowl) in charge of Miss G. N Ravenscroft was won by Alderman A. N. Hillier, who returned it, the next winner being Mr. S. J. Timmins. The amount raised, with the addition of a few shillings from Guild funds, was £5. The monthly competitions were judged by Mr. Hillier, and prizes awarded to Mrs. Ivy Preston (for a Christmas table arrangements, and Mr. Toy (for Brussel sprouts). Tea hostesses were Mrs. B. M. and Miss Ruth Ravenscroft, assisted by Miss Eileen Norman. An unusual competition, arranged by Mrs. Hillier (who also gave the prize) on various means of travel transport was won by Mr. T. Preston.

BULL CONFRONTS COUNCILLORS ON PUBLIC FOOTPATH

WHEN two Colton parish councillors walked a public footpath on an inspection tour they found a bull in a field through which the path ran, the parish council were told at their meeting on Friday. This confirmed a complaint made at the previous meeting.

The path was from Forge House to Stockwell Heath and it was walked by Councillors L. Mellor and G. F. Upton, who reported two cases of obstruction. The bull had since been taken from the field, it was stated.

The council decided to write again to the owner of the land, as no reply had been received to a previous letter.

It was stated that there had been no further development regarding the much-used public footpath from the Pinfold to the Trent Valley.

Councillor F. Hardcastle (chairman) said he had explained to Lichfield Rural Council how useful the footpath was to Colton people.

At the outset of the meeting the chairman welcomed Mrs. P. M. Buckley as the new clerk.

Delay complaint

It was reported that the proposed meeting regarding a village hall had not yet been fixed, as a reply was awaited from the Staffordshire Rural Community Council regarding any possible grant for the Reading Room.

Councillor Hardcastle said he had invited Mr. D. M. Gibb (R.C.C. secretary) to attend the meeting, when called.

Councillors A. N. Felton and R. Morrall expressed the opinion that this matter had been delayed far too long, but other members did not share this view.

Regarding the Rural Community Council's appeal for funds, no decision on the amount was reached as no member was sure what the previous contributions had been.

Colton Village Produce Guild asked the council if they would provide bulbs and wallflower plants for the war memorial, promising to attend to the planting of them.

Councillor Hardcastle undertook to obtain the bulbs and plants.

Subsidence

Two complaints were received from Councillor T. Preston, regarding a case of subsidence at Bank Top and the condition of a drain near Lucy Berry Cottage. Councillor Mellor also commented on the bad condition of the verge in front of 10 private houses at the top of the village.

It was decided that these complaints should be reported to the area surveyor.

Councillor Morrall expressed concern regarding the six almshouses at Stockwell Heath, which had been empty for some time. He wondered why nothing seemed to be happening there, as, in his opinion, they would make a good old people's unit.

Several members supported the idea, but it was agreed that there seemed to be no immediate answer to the question.

An inquiry from the Village Produce Guild asked whether the Parish Council would supply bulbs and wallflower plants to put round the war memorial now that the summer flowers are over. Guild members would be willing to plant. It was agreed, and Mr. Hardcastle said he would be responsible for obtaining same.

Two complaints were received from Mr. T. Preston, regarding a case of subsidence on Bank Top, and the condition of a drain by Lucy Berry Cottage, while Mr. Mellor said what a bad condition the verge was in at the top of the village in front of ten private houses. It was agreed to report these matters to the Area Surveyor's Roads and Bridges department.

Mr. R. Morrall voiced concern on why nothing seemed to be happening to the row of six Alms Houses at Stockwell Heath, which have been empty for some considerable time. He thought it would make a good old people's unit. Several members seemed of the same opinion, but at the present time there would not

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COLTON PARISH COUNCIL

Mercury 17/11/61

At a meeting of Colton Parish Council attended by all members in the Reading Room on Friday, the Chairman, Mr. F. Hardcastle, welcomed the new clerk, Mrs. P. M. Buckley.

The proposed public meeting (re—village hall matters) was arranged for sometime in January, 1962; the date could not be fixed as a reply is awaited from the Rural Community Council, regarding any possible grant on the Reading Room.

The public footpath from the yard of Forge House to Stockwell Heath has been walked by Cllrs. Mellor and G. F. Upton, who, in giving their report state that when they made their inspection the bull was in a field through which the path runs, but had later been removed. They found two cases of obstruction. It was decided to write again to the owner of the land; no reply had been received to a previous letter.

It was stated that there was no further development regarding the much used public footpath from the Pinfold to the Trent Valley. Mr. Hardcastle said he had explained in detail at a meeting of Lichfield Rural District Council how useful this footpath is to Colton people, it being the most used path in the parish.

An inquiry from the Village Produce Guild asked whether the Parish Council would supply bulbs and wallflower plants to put round the war memorial now that the summer flowers are over. Guild members would be willing to plant. It was agreed, and Mr. Hardcastle said he would be responsible for obtaining same.

Two complaints were received from Mr. T. Preston, regarding a case of subsidence on Bank Top, and the condition of a drain by Lucy Berry Cottage, while Mr. Mellor said what a bad condition the verge was in at the top of the village in front of ten private houses. It was agreed to report these matters to the Area Surveyor's Roads and Bridges department.

Mr. R. Morrall voiced concern on why nothing seemed to be happening to the row of six Alms Houses at Stockwell Heath, which have been empty for some considerable time. He thought it would make a good old people's unit. Several members seemed of the same opinion, but at the present time there would not appear to be any answer to this quest, but it was agreed on the waste of space to stand as it does at present.

COLTON CAROL SERVICE

22/12/61

Children of Colton St. Mary's School held their Carol Service in St. Mary's Church on Friday afternoon. Lesson readers were Vernon Norman, Terence Martin Gwendoline Ravenscroft, and Susan Martin. Taking part in a Nativity play were Patricia Shipley, (Mary), Ian Cooper (Joseph). Shepherds were, Ian Evans, Philip Creek, Glyn Sargeant, Ian Myatt and Nigel Knight; Wise men, Brian Nicholls. Stanley Hawthorn, and Waldimar Klisck; Angels, June Sargeant and Pearl Haynes. The Inn Keeper, Philip Deacon. Mrs. D. R. Shaw was organist. The Collections which are to be devoted to the Church of England Childrens Society were taken Keith Williscroft, Terence Cooper, Stephen Hibbs and Paul Nicholls.

Colton Carol Service

Mercury 5/1/62

Colton Carol service took place at St. Mary's Church on New Year's Eve when bad weather prevented a large attendance. Lesson readers were: Mr. D. F.

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mittee [illegible] Guild [illegible] show, [illegible] initial [illegible] Mr. G. L. Nicholls as [illegible] B. M. Ravenscroft [illegible] secretary again but no decision was made as regards the treasurer for the time being. The rest of the committee are Mr. A. N. Felton, Mr. G. F. D. Atkin, senior, Mr. D. Garwood, Mr. E. W. Sargeant, Mr. W. Preston, Mrs. Ivy Preston, and Miss D. M. Jones. The schedule and general rules agreed on and the date of the show fixed for August 25, 1962, in the village school. The secretary was instructed to proceed with letters to suggested judges and opener.

Carol Service.—Children of Colton St. Mary's School had their carol service in St. Mary's Church on Friday afternoon. This popular service was very well attended by parents and friends. Lesson readers were Vernon Norman, Terence Martin, Gwendoline Ravenscroft and Susan Martin. A nativity play was performed, those taking part were Patricia Shipley (Virgin Mary), Ian Cooper (Joseph), Shepherds were, Ian Evans, Philip Creek, Glyn Sargeant, Ian Myatt and Nigel Knight; Wise Men, Brian Nicholls, Stanley Hawthorn and Waldimar Klisch, Angels, June Sargeant and Pearl Haynes, The Inn Keeper, Philip Deacon. Mrs. D R Shaw was organist. The collections which are to be devoted to the Church of England Children's Society were taken by Keith Williscroft, Terence Cooper, Stephen Hibbs, and Paul Nicholls.

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of Rugeley

TIMES 25/11/61

At the November meeting of Colton Mothers' Union, held in the Reading Room on Tuesday, Mrs. J. L. Taylor (enrolling member) extended a welcome to the Rev. N. R. Torrington, vicar of Rugeley on his first visit to Colton.

After conducting the service Mr. Torrington gave an inspiring talk, taking as his subject "Sunday". Mrs. Ivy Preston expressed the members' thanks to him.

Mrs. Taylor said that an enrolling members' meeting it had been suggested that a presentation be made to the retiring deanery presiding member. Mrs. Mary Arnold who had held office for nine years and had been at all times most helpful to branches in the Rugeley Deanery. It was decided that the treasurer should send a donation for this purpose to Mrs. H. B. Croft, at Cannock.

It was thought that as the hire charges of the Reading Room have increased, it might be necessary to organise an effort to raise funds for the branch in a few months time.

COLTON

Advertiser 18/1/62

A pleasant evening was spent by Colton Women's Institute members at their January meeting held in the Reading Room. The minutes of the December meeting were read and confirmed and Mrs. M. Bigham was welcomed as a new member. Business matters were few, and included arrangements for the New Year party, the pantomime outing on January 24 and a few details regarding the Spring meeting of the Park Side Group to be held at Kingstone on March 26. A letter was read giving County approval to the suggestion that Marchington join the Parkside Group.

Mrs. N Jones gave a report of her recent stay at Denman College and exhibited work she had done. Mrs Jones was thanked by Mrs. B. M Ravenscroft. The visiting speaker for the evening was Miss Vines,

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COLTON

Produce Guild. — An enjoyable evening was spent by Colton Village Produce Guild members and friends when, in place of the monthly meeting, they held their annual social in the Reading Room. A committee member, Mr. G. E. D. Atkin (sen.) and his wife had given a turkey to be roasted for the refreshment sandwiches. They were thanked by Mr. Jack Brown, who acted as M.C., and in the unavoidable absence of the chairman, Mr. J. S. Toy, whose wife had been taken to hospital, extended a welcome to the company. Games were played, winners being Mrs. I. R. Brown and Mr. T. Preston. Dancing to music provided by Mr. Tom Done and Mr. Ben Jackson was enjoyed. Another game was won by Dorian Peet and Sylvia Goodall, judges being Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Nicholls. The competition for bottle of sherry in charge of Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft,

Colton talk on transport changes

WELCOMED with her husband, Alderman A. N. Hillier, at the December meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild, Mrs. Hillier gave a talk on travel, describing various means of transport from her childhood days to the present time.

For the purposes of her talk, Mrs. Hillier covered transport in the British Isles and then went "Globe trotting" to New Zealand, the Fiji Islands, Iceland, France, Germany, Switzerland and the Hawaiian Isles.

A vote of thanks to Mrs. Hillier was proposed to Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft

Mrs. Ravenscroft as representative at the recent county meeting, gave details regarding the county quiz. In the preliminary rounds, she said, Colton "A" team were to compete at Tittensor on March 13 and the "B" team were drawn against Hanchurch on a date to be fixed. The finals would take place at the county annual meeting on April 28.

A bring and buy stall in aid of Rural Community Council funds was in charge of Mrs. D. Deacon, assisted by Mr. A. N Felton. A competition for a fowl was run by Miss G. N. Ravenscroft. Alderman Hillier was the winner, but he returned it, and the next winner was Mr. S. J. Timmins.

A total of £5 was raised for the R.C.C. funds, and Mr. D. M. Gibb (secretary) acknowledged the gift.

Alderman Hillier stressed that the R.C.C. needed more money, if it was to carry out all its aims.

Alderman Hillier judged the monthly competitions and awarded prizes to Mrs. I. Preston, for a Christmas table decoration without the use of flowers, and to Mr. Toy for six Brussels sprouts.

Tea hostesses were Misses B. M. and Miss Ruth Ravenscroft, assisted by Miss Eileen Norman.

An unusual competition arranged by Mrs. Hillier, on various means of travel transport was won by Mr. T. Preston, who was presented with a prize by Mrs. Hillier.

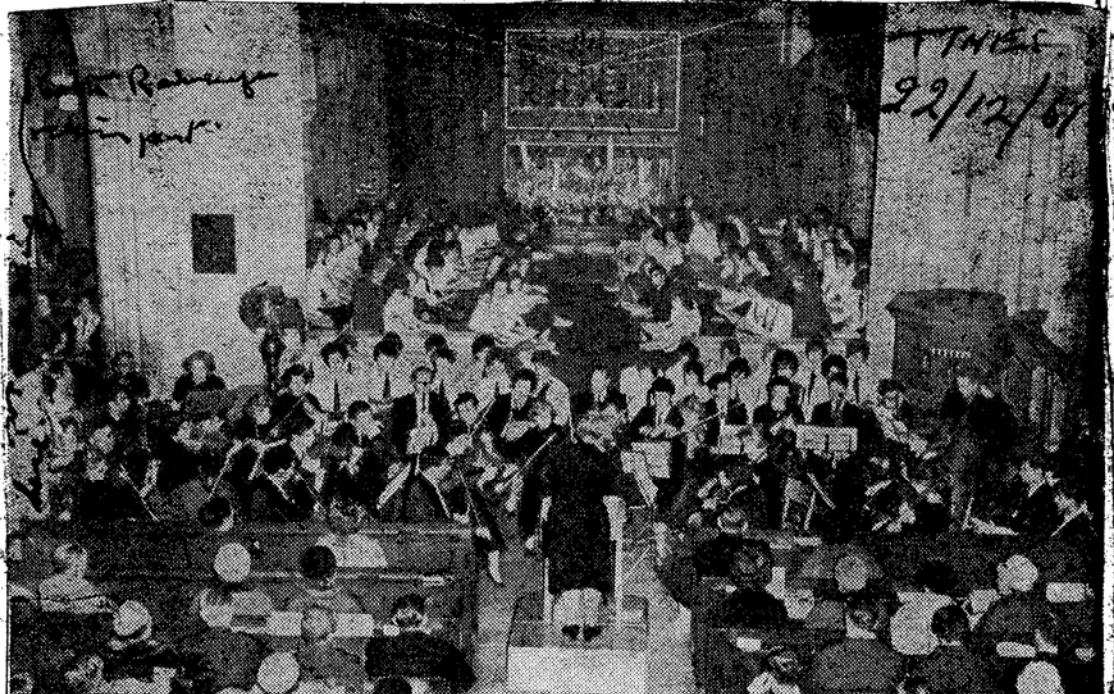
The meeting was presided over by Mr. J. H. Toy (chairman).

Attendance was somewhat poor at the first meeting in 1962 of Colton Mothers' Union held in the Reading Room. The Enrolling member Mrs. J. L. Taylor conducted a short service, and carols were sung. The Prayer Group meeting at Cannock on January was discussed when a gift will presented to Mrs. Mary Arnold retiring Deanery Presiding member. It was decided to have bring and buy stall at the February meeting for branch funds. Mrs. I. V. Collins who represents the Mothers' Union on the entertainment Committee of the Reading Room gave a few general comments regarding this matter.

Colton W.I. party

Colton Women's Institute members had their New Year Party in the Reading Room on Wednesday evening last week when the President, Mrs. I. Preston, welcomed the company, which as well as members and their guests included visitors from Abbots Bromley, Etching Hill, Kingstone and Slitting Mill Institutes.

After a good meal prepared by members, Mrs. Jack Brown, the M.C. kept up an interesting pro-



Miss Maude Smith conducting the massed choirs and the County Orchestra in St. Augustine's Church on Friday evening. Extracts from Handel's "Messiah" and other works were given by selected children from the local secondary schools and a few youth club members.

Colton meeting to discuss need for village hall

At the December meeting of Colton Parish Council it was decided that the public meeting at which consideration is to be given to the village hall proposal should be held on January 25.

Circulars explaining the matters involved are to be distributed to parishioners with a questionnaire which can be completed by any residents unable to attend the meeting.

Mr. F. Hardcastle (chairman) said various ideas were under consideration to improve the present room.

Regarding public footpaths it was reported that there was still no reply from the owner of the land through which the footpath from Forge House yard to Stockwell runs.

It was decided to make a further inspection of the path to see if anything had been done regarding the obstructions complained of.

Members decided to visit the area where the path from Trent Valley to Colton village runs, as no agreement had yet been reached. The plans put forward by the landowner for a diversion were not acceptable to the parish council.

It was reported that subsidence near Lucy Berry Cottage had been attended to but not that at Bank Top.

Councillor G. F. Upton again drew attention to the bad state of the road leading

COLTON

Produce Guild. — An enjoyable evening was spent by Colton Village Produce Guild members and friends when, in place of the monthly meeting, they held their annual social in the Reading Room. A committee member, Mr. G. E. D. Atkin (sen.) and his wife had given a turkey to be roasted for the refreshment sandwiches. They were thanked by Mr. Jack Brown, who acted as M.C., and in the unavoidable absence of the chairman, Mr. J. S. Toy, whose wife had been taken to hospital, extended a welcome to the company. Games were played, winners being Mrs. I. R. Brown and Mr. T. Preston. Dancing to music provided by Mr. Tom Done and Mr. Ben Jackson was enjoyed. Another game was won by Dorian Peet and Sylvia Goodall, judges being Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Nicholls. The competition for bottle of sherry in charge of Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft,

COLTON W.I. PREPARING FOR SHOW

At the December meeting of Colton W.I., held in the Reading Room, Mrs. I. Preston presided and extended a welcome to Mrs. J. T. G. Craddock (president of Slitting Mill) and other visitors.

Invitations were accepted from Slitting Mill and Etching Hill W.I's. to attend their New Year parties, and Colton's party was fixed for January 17. It was also decided to arrange a pantomime outing in the New Year.

Details regarding next year's show were announced so that members wishing to enter the handicraft classes could proceed with their work during the winter months.

A collection of pennies was taken by Mrs. D. M. Atkin for the friendship appeal of the Associated Countrywomen of the World.

Games were organised by Mesdames J. L. Taylor, N. Jones and Atkin, and carol singing was accompanied by Miss D. M. Jones at the piano.

The sum of £7 1s. was raised at the Christmas stall, run by Mrs. Jones and Miss E. Rotchell.

The mystery prize was won by Mrs. E. M. Sargeant.

The competition for a Christmas table decoration was well supported and Mrs. Craddock awarded the prize to Mrs. P. M. Buckley. A vote of thanks to Mrs. Craddock was proposed by Mrs. I. R. Brown.

Tea hostesses were Mesdames P L. Bannister, M. G. Bennett, M C. Harvey and C. M. Sanders.

COLTON W.I. SOCIAL

An enjoyable evening was spent by Colton Village Produce Guild members and friends when in place of the monthly meeting they held their annual social in the Reading Room. A committee member Mr. G. E. D. Atkin (sen.) and his wife had kindly given a turkey to be roasted for the refreshment sandwiches. They were thanked by Mr. Jack Brown who acted as M.C. and w[illegible] in the unavoidable absence of the Chairman Mr. J. H. Toy (whose wife had been taken to hospital) extended a welcome to the company.

Dancing music by Mr. Tom Done and Mr. Ben Jackson was enjoyed. Wrapping up 'Mumies' was won by Dorian Peet and Sylvia Goodall, judges being Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Nicholls.

'MESSIAH' SUNG BY SCHOOLS' CHOIR

A RARE treat awaited music-lovers who attended the [illegible]oncert of Christmas music [illegible]ven in Rugeley Parish Church [illegible]n Friday evening. A massed [illegible]oir from Rugeley seconda[illegible] [illegible]chools, accompanied by th[illegible] [illegible]affordshire County Orchestr[illegible] [illegible]ve extracts from part I [illegible] [illegible]andel's "Messiah."

The soloists were: Pamela Wo[illegible] [illegible]pre (soprano), Lesley Reid (co[illegible] [illegible]lto), Andrew Gold (tenor), a[illegible] [illegible]rdon Clinton (baritone).

The conductor was Miss Mau[illegible] [illegible]ith, county music adviser, w[illegible] [illegible]earned widespread commend[illegible] [illegible]n for the many musical activiti[illegible] [illegible]e has arranged, especia[illegible] [illegible]roughout the county.

The Rev. N. R. Torringt[illegible] [illegible]icar) compered the programm[illegible] [illegible]hich also included communi[illegible] [illegible]rol singing. "The Trumpet Sha[illegible] [illegible]ound" and the Hallelujah Choru[illegible] There was a very large an[illegible] [illegible]ppreciative audience to suppo[illegible] [illegible]is first effort so appropriate t[illegible] [illegible]e Christmas season.

EADING ROOM, COLTON
16/2/61
GRAND DANCE
d CHILDREN'S FANCY DRESS
in three age groups
RIDAY, DECEMBER 22nd
Dancing from 8 p.m. till 1-0 a.m.
AL ROBINSON & HIS BAND

CAROL SERVICE

The carol service at St. Mary's Church, Colton, took place on New Year's Eve, but bad weather prevented many from attending.

The lessons were read by Mr. D. B. Waters (licensed lay reader and headmaster), Mrs. J. L. Taylor (enrolling member of Mothers' Union), Rosemary Dolman (choirgirl), Miss D. A. Cooper (P.C.C. secretary), Mr. J. Tittensor (rector's warden) and the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson.

TIMES

CHILDREN PORTRAY NATIVITY AT COLTON

TIMES 22/12/61

CHILDREN of St. Mary's School, Colton, had their annual carol service in the village church on Friday afternoon. It was well attended by parents and friends.

The lessons were read by Vernon Norman, Terence Martin, Gwendoline Ravenscroft and Susan Martin. In the nativity play Patricia Shipley took the part of the Virgin Mary, and Ian Cooper was Joseph. Shepherds: Ian Evans, Philip Creek, Glyn Sargeant, Ian Myatt and Nigel Knight; Wise Men: Brian Nicholas, Stanley Hawthorn and Waldimar Klisch; Angels: June Sargeant and Pearl Haynes. Inn Keeper: Philip Deacon. Mrs. D. R. Shaw was organist.

The collection, for the Church of England Children's Society, was taken by Keith Williscroft, Terence Cooper, Stephen Hibbs and Paul Nicholls.

Turkey gave seasonable 'flavour' to Colton party

TIMES 13/1/62

AN enjoyable evening was spent by Colton Village Produce Guild on Friday, when members and friends met in the Reading Room for the annual social. Mr. Jack Brow acted as M.C., in the absen of the chairman, Mr. J. H. To whose wife had been taken to hospital.

Refreshments included sandwiches made from a turkey presented for roasting by Mr. G. E. D. Atkin, senr., and Mrs. Atkin, who were thanked for their generosity.

The "warming up" item was a game of pairs in which the first three couples to find their partners were Mr. T. Preston and Mrs. J. R. Brown, Mrs. I. Preston and Miss R. Ravenscroft and Mrs. C. M Sanders and Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft. The rest of the contestants acted as judges.

Music was provided by Mr. T. Done and Mr. B. Jackson and there was dancing and team games.

Wrapping up "mummies" was won by Dorian Peet and Sylvia Goodall the judges being Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Nicholls. Mr. S. J. Timmins and Mr. T. Preston won the "musical coach" and Mr. Timmins's game was won by Gwendoline Ravenscroft and Stella Walliscroft.

Mrs. Ravenscroft's competition for sherry was won by Mr. J. F. Peet.

Mr. T. Preston expressed the regret of members at the news that Mr. and Mrs. Nicholls were leaving the district and thanked Mr. Brown for conducting the programme.

COLTON

Advertiser 14/12/61

Produce Guild. — At the December meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild, held in the Reading Room, the chairman, Mr. J. H. Toy, welcomed Alderman and Mrs. A. N. Hillier, members and visitors, several apologies were received. The secretary, Miss D. M. Jones, read the minutes of the November meeting and these were confirmed. The treasurer, Mr. A. N. Felton, gave financial details of the recent whist drive which had proved successful. The chairman, appealing for volunteers at the annual New Year social to be held on January 5, said help would be needed in the entertainment section as well as with refreshments, and any one with ideas should come forward. Mr. G. E. D. Atkin, snr., extended his and Mrs. Atkin's thanks to those ladies who organised the teas at the recent digging contest, and he also thanked the Guild for a small gift sent to Mrs. Atkin in this connection, and said what pleasure it had given both himself and Mrs. Atkin to have had this event take place at their home. The representative at the recent county meeting, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, gave what details were available regarding the county quiz. In the preliminary rounds, Colton A team compete at Tittensor on March 13, and Colton B team at Hanchurch, possibly the last week in February or third week in March, the finals to take place at the county annual meeting on April 28, 1962. Mrs. Ravenscroft said that The Staffordshire representative to the national federation, Mr. C. F. Horton, of Lichfield, was now vice-chairman of the National Federation. Following the business of the evening, Mrs Hillier gave a talk on 'Travel' by various means of transport for her childhood up to the present day, and was thanked by Mrs. R. B. Ravenscroft. The bring and buy stall, arranged for Rural Community Council funds, was in charge of Mrs. Dora Deacon, assisted by Mr Felton and a competition, in charge of Miss G. N. Ravenscroft, for a boiling fowl, was won by Alderman Hillier, who returned it, the next winner being Mr S. J. Timmins. The amount raised with the addition of a few shillings for Guild Funds, was £5. Mr. D. M. Gibb, R.C.C organising secretary, expressed thanks. Alderman Hillier gave a talk regarding the need by the R.C.C. for more money, if it is to be able to undertake all its aims. The monthly competitions were judged by Mr Hillier, and prizes were awarded to Mrs. Ivy Preston for a Christmas table arrangement (no flowers allowed), and to Mr. Toy for six Brussel sprouts. Regarding small competitions, it was decided that, as from the annual meeting in March, awards shall be on a points system over the whole year. Tea hostesses were Mrs. B. M and Miss Ruth Ravenscroft, assisted by Miss Eileen Norman. An unusual competition, arranged by

COLTON

Advertiser 25/1/62

Poor Turnout.—Attendance was poor at the first meeting in 1962 of Colton Mothers' Union held in the Reading Room. The enrolling member, Mrs J. L. Taylor, conducted a short service, and carols sung were "See amid the winters snow" and "Once in Royal David's City." Business matters discussed included the prayer group meeting at Cannock on January 31st, when a gift will be presented to Mrs Mary Arnold, the retirins Deanery presiding member. It was decided to have a bring and buy stall at the February meeting for branch funds, and it was agreed that as the price of the Mothers' Union Journal has increased the yearly subscription shall be increased from 3s 6d to 4s as from June next. This it was explained will just cover tribute money, and cost of Journal. Mrs I. V. Collins who represents the mothers union on the entertainment committee of the Reading Room gave a few general comments regarding this matter.

COLTON

Advertiser 25/1/62

Colton Women's Institute members had their New Year party in the Reading Room on Wednesday evening. The president, Mrs. I. Preston, welcomed the company which apart from members and their guests, included visitors from Abbots Bromley, Etching Hill, Kingstone and Slitting Mill, Institutes. A most enjoyable evening was spent and after a meal prepared by members, Mr Jack Brown, the M.C., held an interesting programme of dancing and games. The game "Musical Coach" was won by Mr and Mrs T. Preston. The rest of the games were team games. The competition in charge of Miss D. M. Jones was won by Mr C. S Jones. Mr C. Williscroft, and Mrs M. A. Hutchinson. Mrs Preston extended thanks to Mr Brown for conducting the entertainment so well. Mr Brown urged the gathering to give their full support to the rummage sale arranged for February 10th, to help institute funds. The singing of "Auld Lang Syne" brought the evening to a close.

Colton M.U. fund raising effort

TIMES 20/1/62

Meeting on Tuesday for the first time in 1962, members of Colton Mothers' Union joined in a short service conducted by Mrs. J. Taylor (enrolling member) and carols were sung.

Among business matters discussed was the prayer group meeting at Cannock on January 31, when a gift will be presented to Mrs. M. Arnold, retiring deanery presiding member.

It was decided to have a bring and buy stall at the February meeting, in aid of branch funds. It was also decided that, as the price of the M.U. Journal has in-

decoration

TIMES 20/1/62

A pleasant evening was spent by Colton W.I. members at their January meeting in the Reading Room, when a new member, Mrs. M. Bigham, was welcomed.

Business matters dealt with included arrangements for the new year party, a pantomime outing on January 24 and the spring meeting of Parkside Group at Kingstone on March 26. A letter was read giving county approval to the suggestion that Marchington should join Parkside Group.

Mrs. N. Jones gave a report of her recent stay at Denman College and exhibited work she had done. She was thanked by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft.

The speaker was Miss D. E. Vines, a representative of a paint firm, who gave a talk and practical demonstration on the use of colour in the home. This was followed by a film, "Living with colour".

Mrs. I. R. Brown proposed the vote of thanks to Miss Vines and said it was a refreshing change to have an Australian visiting them.

Tea hostesses were Mrs. L. Betson and Mrs. D. Deacon. The mystery prize went to Mrs. Tooley.

M.U. members at Cannock

3/2/62

Mothers' Union Rugeley Deanery meeting group meeting at Cannock Church, conducted by Mrs. Lambert.

The retiring pres Mrs. M. Arnold, with a handbag an Mrs. C. A. J. Pay Bromley, the newly siding member.

members

Face-lift for the old one

ADVERTISER 1/2/62

COLTON, near Rugeley is to stick to its village hall—known as the Reading Room.

A suggested new hall is OUT — for the present at least.

But it is intended to launch an all-out drive to renovate and extend the present hall.

This was decided at a special meeting of villagers held on Thursday.

It was a vote in which even sick villagers were able to take part.

Their votes— specially recorded on forms—counted in the poll along with those of people who turned up at the meeting.

And the result was overwhelmingly in favour of sprucing up the present building.

The chairman of the parish council, Mr. Fred Hardcastle,, was joined by fellow councillors, Mr. J. C. Price, member of the management committee, and others who were elected to the committee under a trust of 1923 which dedicated the hall "for ever to the people of Colton."

Mr. David Gibbs, secretary to Staffordshire Rural Community Council, who was present in an advisory capacity, explained to the villagers about grants which might be available. In order to receive grants "certain legal steps" might have to be taken regarding the status of the Trust controlling the hall, he said.

If the trustees accepted Ministry recommendations regarding constitution and such matters, grants were possible, he said.

If a new village hall were erected a new charitable trust would have to be in existence with one representative of every organisation in the area.

"You have to find roughly £1 for £1. Whether you adapt or built you have to find money," warned Mr. Gibb.

"Troubles"

"When new buildings are erected, troubles start. Bigger upkeep and maintenance of facilities must be borne in mind," he added. Part of the job was to inspire the managing community's interest and enthusiasm..

"What would a new hall cost?" asked one villager—"Between £5,000 and £7,000," estimated Mr. Hardcastle.

Mr. Price, chairman of the management committee, said they felt the hall could be renovated at little cost. They proposed not to use a grant.

"The building is of some importance and you cannot just scrap it," he argued

"If we get together a band of workers, we can provide a village hall to be proud of," he declared. They were out of debt, had installed heating and other work was contemplated.

"If we pull together, perhaps later we can build a hall on a more respectable site."

Mr. Price said that the present structure was worth £3,000 and belonged to the village.

When asked "Are you serious that this hall can never be disposed of?" Mr. Price read a deeds extract and declared: "It stays for ever."

Asked if he had any idea what the ultimate cost of alterations would be, Mr. Price said: "We aim to do it for as little as possible and in stages. It all depends how much we intend to do. We have rough plans as a committee."

Mr. Hardcastle interjected: "It depends on how much voluntary

THE LADY FORESTER
CONVALESCENT HOME
EEN'S ROAD, LLANDUDNO.
[illegible] named Convalescent Home

Colton W.I. New Year party

TIMES 27/1/62

MEMBERS brought guests and there were visitors from Abbots Bromley, Etching Hi Kingstone and Slitting Mill Inst tutes at Colton Women's Institu New Year party. Some of t members and guests are pictur above.

The president, Mrs. I. Presto presided, and after the meal, whic had been prepared by the mem bers, there was an enjoyable pr gramme of dancing and game the duties of M.C. being unde taken by Mr. Jack Brown.

The game, musical coach, was won by Mr. and Mrs. T. Prest and winners of the competition charge of Miss D. M. Jones, w Mr. C. S. Jones, Mr. G. Willisc and Mrs. M. A. Hutchinson

Mrs. Preston thanked Mr. Bro for conducting the entertainm and Mr. Brown asked all pres to support the rummage sale wh is being held on February 10 aid of institute funds.

COLTON PRODUCE GUILD

Staff 9/2/62

The February meeting of the Colton Produce Guild was held in the Reading Room, Mr. J. H. Toy presiding. Mr. Toy agreed to fill the vacancy on the Show Committee ed by the departure of G. L. Nicholls, and Mr. F. Peet agreed to serve on the Reading Room Entertainment Committee. Mr. Toy extended a welcome to Mr. and Mrs. R. Fearnehough, of Rodbaston Farm Institute. Mr. Fearnehough gave a talk on "Planning a Garden" and erwards showed some oured slides and answered estions. He was thanked by Mrs. Edith Preston. Tea hostesses were Mrs. Ivy Preston, Mrs. M. E. Hibbs and Miss D. M. Jones.

Colton decides against village hall proposal

TIMES 27/1/62

A public meeting at Colton on Thursday decided not to proceed with a proposal that negotiations should be opened for obtaining a village hall. It was decided, instead to give an impetus to a fund for renovating the existing Reading Room, and to enlarge it.

The meeting had been called by the Parish Council at the request of the Village Produce Guild. Councillor F. Hardcastle, parish council chairman, presided, and was suppotred by Mr. J. C. Price, chairman of the Reading Room Management Committee.

Mr. D M Gibbs, secretary of Staffordshire Rural Community Council, was present. A full report will appear in next week's "Times."

Then and now

3/2/62

THOUGH a democratic decision seems to have been made at Colton's public meeting last week, I feel sorry, in a way, that they did not plumb for a new village hall. Let us face it: the Reading Room, as it is called, is another relic of the last century, when evening facilities for study were needed, and even the most sentimental among the Coltonians must admit that it is not a handsome building.

It was probably built when Rugeley's Mechanics Institute was thriving, and it served a similar purpose, but Rugeley demolished theirs 80 years ago! Though the interior can no doubt be modernised, even extended by building out to the rear, very little can be done to the facade, which greets the visitor with a blank brick wall and a few posters.

The Parish Council received the request for a public meeting in October and circularised all householders with the facts under discussion. According to the report published in the "Times", the deeds state that the room cannot be disposed of in any way without the authority of the committee of management. I was surprised that this clause was not invoked last week, by those who favoured a new hall, when the committee tried to make it clear that the Reading Room must go on "for ever."

COLTON READING ROOM RENOVATION PLAN

Mercury 2/2/62

AT a public meeting held in Colton, on Thursday last week to decide whether to have a new village hall or renovate the existing hall, known as the Reading Room, the majority of those present voted in favour of the renovation plan.

The meeting had been called by the Parish Council at the request of the Village Produce Guild, Mr. F. Hardcastle (Parish Council chairman) presiding.

Also present were Mr. J. C. Price, (Chairman of the Reading Room Management Committee), and Mr. D. M. Gibb (Organising secretary to the Staffs. Rural Community Council).

Mr. Gibb explained points with regard to grants and reminded the gathering that what was decided that evening could well affect present day school leavers in the year 2012.

After a question had been put concerning the sale of the Reading Room, part of the Deed was referred to which stated that the room was for the use of Colton people for ever.

Mr. Price explained that the Reading Room was structurally safe and could be much improved. He did not think the cost would enter into the matter if workers could be gathered together. When the present management committee had taken over, the room had been in debt, but this debt was now cleared and a good balance left over.

He felt it would be better not to apply for a grant when so much could be done with voluntary labour and second-hand materials.

Asked about a car park, Mr. Price said the management did not wish to divulge their ideas for this at present as they were not definite plans.

On a question of the cost of a new hall, Mr. Hardcastle said this would probably be in the region of £6,000. The management committee of the present room being determined to proceed with their ideas he felt there was no need for two halls for a place the size of Colton.

On the vote being taken the majority were in favour of the Reading Room renovation plan going on.

COLTON SERVICE

TIMES

Mothers' Union members from

IMPROVEMENT PLANS FOR COLTON READING ROOM TO PROCEED

Times 3/2/62

DISCUSSION at the recent public meeting regarding the provision of a village hall at Colton, hinged mainly on an interpretation of the deeds of the Reading Room and the determination of the Reading Room Management Committee to proceed with their ideas for improving the existing premises.

As reported in our last issue, the majority decision was against erecting a new hall, and favoured assisting the Reading Room committee in modernising and enlarging their premises.

The meeting had been called by the Parish Council at the request of the Village Produce Guild and Councillor F. Hardcastle presided. All parish councillors were present. Mr. J. C. Price, chairman of the Reading Room Management Committee, and Mr. D. M. Gibb, secretary of Staffordshire Rural Community Council, which gives advice and financial assistance for village halls, were present.

At the outset Mr. Gibb explained points regarding grants and said the decision made that evening could well affect present day school-leavers in 2012 — 50 years hence.

Future grant

He told Mr. J. H. Toy that any grant given to the Reading Room would not preclude the possibility of a grant for a new hall in the future, and he assurred Mr. G. F. Upton that the grants were gifts, not loans.

Mr. I. J. Hurley asked Mr. Price if the Reading Room could ever be sold and was told it could not.

When Mr. J. F. Peet queried this statement Mr. Price read part of the deed which says: "The Reading Room is for the use of the Colton people for ever."

Mr. D. Garwood, after asking how long the building could be expected to last, went on to inquire what would happen when it was no more. He received no definite reply.

Mr. L Mellor asked Mr. Gibb if an architect's opinion would be needed before a grant could be given for the Reading Room, and replying in the affirmative, Mr. Gibb asked if the committee had assured themselves that the building was structurally safe.

Giving an assurance that it was, Mr. Price said the room could be very much improved. He did not think cost should enter into the matter, if a body of workers could be got together. When the present committee took over the room was in debt, but that was now cleared and there was a good balance. He felt, therefore, that it would be advisable not to apply for a grant at present as so much could be done with second-hand materials and voluntary labour.

Car park

Regarding the provision of a car park, Mr. Price did not think this would be a problem, but said the Management Committee did not wish to divulge their plans at present.

In reply to a question by Mr. P. J. Everall, Councillor Hardcastle said a new hall was likely to cost about £6,000, and, the Management Committee of the present room being determined to proceed with their ideas, he felt there was no need for two halls in a place of the size of Colton.

He urged the meeting to give serious thought to the matter before voting.

The majority voted in favour of the Reading Room renovation plan continuing, though a number abstained.

On the following evening (Friday) there was a further successful dance organised by the Entertainment Committee for Reading Room funds. Al Robinson provided the music and competition prizes were won by Mrs. N. Martin and Miss Edna Logan

TO BURIAL GROUND INTRUSION

Times 3/2/62

COLTON Parochial Church Council have decided unanimously to resist a proposal by Lichfield Rural Council to site a sewage pumping station on part of the new churchyard extension, midway between the Rectory and the proposed site for the school extensions.

At a meeting on Friday, the church council were informed that the rural council had applied, under the Town and Country Planning Acts, for permission to build on part of the field recently given for churchyard extension.

They decided to instruct Mr. Michael Exham, the diocesan registrar, to take up the matter on their behalf. Mr. Exham will already be involved as the land has been conveyed to Lichfield Diocesan Trust, of which he is executive officer.

Only .03 of an acre is needed, to include a 12-foot wide right of access from the main road. The building would be about 20 yards from the road

Commenting on the proposal to the Times, the Rector of Colton, Rev. A. S. Towlson, said: "I am not happy about it. I am not against the sewage scheme, but I am against the site. I am sure that there must be other sites available."

Prayer meeting presentation

Rugeley Times 9/2/62

Representatives of Mothers' Union branches in the Rugeley Deanery held a Prayer Group meeting, conducted by Head Deaconess Lambert, at St. Luke's Church, Cannock.

Tea was provided by Cannock members. Afterwards, Deaconess Lambert handed to Mrs. Mary Arnold, of Brocton, who has retired from the position of Deanery Presiding Member which she has held for nine years, a handbag and contents — a token of the members' appreciation of her hard work.

Mrs. Arnold expressed her thanks, and the new Presiding Member, Mrs. C. A. J. Payton, of Abbots Bromley, addressed the gathering.

Fund-raising by Colton W.I.

Times 17/2/62

A rummage sale with a bring and buy stall, held in Colton Reading Room on Saturday, was organised by the Women's Institute in aid of their funds.

In charge of stalls were Mesdames I. Preston, N. Jones, D. M. Atkin, P. M. Buckley, D. Deacon, P. L. Bannister and V. Pratt. Doorkeeper was Miss E. Reichell.

COLTON

Advertiser 3/2/62

Produce Guild.—Colton village produce guild has now existed for five years, and at the annual meeting held in the Reading Room, Mr J. H. Toy, chairman, presided. After the reading and confirming of the minutes of the February meeting, Miss D. M. Jones (hon. secretary) presented the committee's report of the year's work. This was a most comprehensive survey of the years activities, which have been many and varied. The adoption of which was moved by Mrs. Ivy Preston. Mr A. N. Felton (hon treasurer) presented the financial report which had been audited by Mr C. J. Ravenscroft, which it was agreed was most satisfactory, and adoption of same was moved by Mr W. Preston. Mr Toy extended thanks to the secretary, treasurer, auditor, committee, and all the members who had helped in any way to make the past year the success it was. Business matters attended to were collection of year's subscriptions which are now due. Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft gave a few details regarding coming County events. It was decided to enter the floral arrangement competition to be staged at the county annual meeting; the judge being the speaker, Mrs Frances Perry. A letter was read from Mr R. A. Brundle (former guild chairman, thanking members for the gift of a climbing rose and wishing the guild continued success. A feature of the evening was a bulb show, the judge being Mr A. Amphlett of Abbots Bromley, who awarded the prizes for—Three hyacinths to Mr A N Felton and Mrs M. S. Toy, and for four daffodils. Mr Felton and Mrs Toy. Mr Amphlett gave a few hints and criticisms on the growing of bulbs. The election for new committee took place, Mr David Pollard acting as teller. Results: Mr G. E. D. Atkin senr., Mr Jack Brown, Mr A. N. Felton, Mr D. W. Garwood, Miss D. M. Jones, Mr J. F. Peet, Mr E. J. Poynton, Mr T. Preston, Mrs B. M. Ravenscroft, and Mr J. H. Toy. Nominations from non-committee members were invited for chairman, and Mr Toy was elected for third term of office. In expressing his thanks for continued confidence placed in him, Mr. Toy asked for suggestions in planning future programme, including outings, he also said the committee would welcome constructive criticism. Mr Toy thanked Mr Pollard for his assistance in acting as teller. Tea hostesses were Mrs D. Deacon and Mrs C. M. Sanders. Home-made wine will be the subject of the April meeting and the competitions, a bottle of wine and 6 cheese straws.

COLTON

Advertiser 3/2/62

Whist.—A whist drive organised by the entertainment committee for Reading Rooms Funds was held in the Reading Room last week, Mr. Percy Westhorpe being the M.C. The prizes were handed out by Mrs I. V. Collins to: Mrs E. M. Sargeant, Mr G .E. D. Atkin (senr.), Mrs G. Hampson, Mr Davis, Mrs. W. J. Myatt, Mrs P. L. Bannister, and Mr Westhorpe. Miniatures, Mrs Hampson, and Mr Atkin, sealed numbers, Miss P. Martin and Mr A. W. Haynes. The competition for a parcel of groceries was won by Mrs Westhorpe.

Women's Institute—The February meeting of the Women's Institute was held in the Reading Room, Mrs I Preston (president) presiding. The minutes were read and confirmed and the County Letter read, and the financial statement regarding the recent Pantomime outing and rummage sale was announced, these it was agreed being satisfactory. It was decided to enter the cookery section at the County Show in May. A letter of thanks from Mrs M. S. Toy, was read regarding flowers sent during her recent stay in Hospital. Members attention was drawn to the list of members, it being nomination night for new committee. The president welcomed and introduced Nurse Dobson, who gave a talk on district nursing, and tracing its history through the ages up to the present day, also giving an insight into the work involved in district nursing. Nurse Dobson

Advertiser 3/2/62

Produce Guild.—Colton village produce guild has now existed for five years, and at the annual meeting held in the Reading Room, Mr J. H. Toy, chairman, presided. After the reading and confirming of the minutes of the February meeting, Miss D. M. Jones (hon. secretary) presented the committee's report of the year's work. This was a most comprehensive survey of the years activities, which have been many and varied. The adoption of which was moved by Mrs. Ivy Preston. Mr A. N. Felton (hon treasurer) presented the financial report which had been audited by Mr C. J. Ravenscroft, which it was agreed was most satisfactory, and adoption of same was moved by Mr W. Preston. Mr Toy extended thanks to the secretary, treasurer, auditor, committee, and all the members who had helped in any way to make the past year the success it was. Business matters attended to were collection of year's subscriptions which are now due. Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft gave a few details regarding coming County events. It was decided to enter the floral arrangement competition to be staged at the county annual meeting; the judge being the speaker, Mrs Frances Perry. A letter was read from Mr R. A. Brundle (former guild chairman, thanking members for the gift of a climbing rose and wishing the guild continued success. A feature of the evening was a bulb show, the judge being Mr A. Amphlett of Abbots Bromley, who awarded the prizes for—Three hyacinths to Mr A N Felton and Mrs M. S. Toy, and for four daffodils. Mr Felton and Mrs Toy. Mr Amphlett gave a few hints and criticisms on the growing of bulbs. The election for new committee took place, Mr David Pollard acting as teller. Results: Mr G. E. D. Atkin senr., Mr Jack Brown, Mr A. N. Felton, Mr D. W. Garwood, Miss D. M. Jones, Mr J. F. Peet, Mr E. J. Poynton, Mr T. Preston, Mrs B. M. Ravenscroft, and Mr J. H. Toy. Nominations from non-committee members were invited for chairman, and Mr Toy was elected for third term of office. In expressing his thanks for continued confidence placed in him, Mr. Toy asked for suggestions in planning future programme, including outings, he also said the committee would welcome constructive criticism. Mr Toy thanked Mr Pollard for his assistance in acting as teller. Tea hostesses were Mrs D. Deacon and Mrs C. M. Sanders. Home-made wine will be the subject of the April meeting and the competitions, a bottle of wine and 6 cheese straws.

Advertiser 3/2/62

Produce Guild. ber meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild, held in the Reading Room, the chairman, Mr J. H. Toy, welcomed Alderman Hillier, members and friends. Apologies were received. The secretary, Miss D. M. Jones, read the minutes of the November meeting and these were confirmed. The treasurer, Mr. A. N. Felton, gave financial details of the recent whist drive which had proved successful. The chairman, appealing for volunteers at the annual New Year social to be held on January 5, said help would be needed in the entertainment section as well as with refreshments, and any one with ideas should come forward. Mr. G. E. D. Atkin, snr., extended his and Mrs. Atkin's thanks to those ladies who organised the teas at the recent digging contest, and he also thanked the Guild for a small gift sent to Mrs. Atkin in this connection, and said what pleasure it had given both himself and Mrs. Atkin to have had this event take place at their home. The representative at the recent county meeting, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, gave what details were available regarding the county quiz In the preliminary rounds, Colton A team compete at Tittensor on March 13, and Colton B team at Hanchurch, possibly the last week in February or third week in March, the finals to take place at the county annual meeting on April 28, 1962. Mrs. Ravenscroft said that The Staffordshire representative to the national federation, Mr. C. F. Horton, of Lichfield, was now vice-chairman of the National Federation. Following the business of the evening, Mrs Hillier gave a talk on 'Travel' by various means of transport for her childhood up to the present day, and was thanked by Mrs. R. B. Ravenscroft. The bring and buy stall, arranged for Rural Community Council funds, was in charge of Mrs. Dora Deacon, assisted by Mr Felton and a competition, in charge of Mrs. G. N. Ravenscroft, for a boxed fowl, was won by Alderman Hillier, who returned it, the next winner being Mr S. J. Timmins. The amount raised with the addition of a few shillings for Guild Funds, was £5. Mr. D. M. Gibb R.C.C organising secretary, expressed thanks. Alderman Hillier gave a talk regarding the need by the R.C.C. for more money, if it is to be able to undertake all its aims. The monthly competitions were judged by Mr Hillier, and prizes were awarded to Mrs. Ivy Preston for a Christmas table arrangement (no flowers allowed) and to Mr. Toy for six Brusse sprouts. Regarding small competitions, it was decided that, as from the annual meeting in March, awards shall be on a points system over the whole year. Tea hostesses were Mrs. B. M and Miss Ruth Ravenscroft, assisted by Miss Eileen Norman. An unusual competition, arranged by Mrs. Hillier (who also gave the prize), on various means of travel transport, was won by Mr T. Preston.

COLTON P.C.C. MEETING

Mercury 16/2/62

At a recent meeting held in the village school of Colton St. Mary's Parochial Church Council, the Rector, Rev. A. S. Towlson, presiding, the notices of both the Sexton and Church cleaner (Mr. and Mrs. J. Devall) were accepted.

The new Clerk, Mr. A. I. D. Collins, offered to be responsible for keeping in order the lawns around the Church, and Mrs. Collins offered to clean the Church, both offers being gratefully accepted.

It was agreed a gift day (as last year) be held on Lady Day, for the "Road Fund" and an officer of the Church would also be in Church Saturday March 24 to receive gifts.

Mr. D. E. Waters and Mr. B. M. Willis reported that the Free Will Offering scheme was

Meeting.—A meeting of Colton Parish Council took place in the Reading Room at which all members were present, but owing to the unavoidable late arrival of the chairman, Mr. F. Hardcastle, the chair was taken by Mr. A. N. Felton, vice-chairman. Various matters arising from the minutes were discussed including footpaths. Councillors L. Mellor and G. F. Upton, reported that as yet they had not had the opportunity to walk the path from Stockwell Heath to the yard of Forge House, but would do so as soon as possible. A long discussion took place regarding the path from centre of Village to the Trent Valley, a letter was read from Lichfield R.D.C. regarding a visit to the site by a sub-committee. Mr. Hardcastle said he had agreed to their suggested plans for diversion he did this as the parish representative on the R.D.C. He accepted this idea as being the lesser of two evils, saying he had stressed that he was not speaking for the parish council when voting for this plan. Councillor R. Morrall said he was very strongly opposed to any diversion whatsoever of this path, he thought people of Colton parish should be allowed to go on using the path they had always used. This was turned down and Councillor Mellor proposed they support their R.D.C. representative and agree to the proposed plan. All members but Councillor Morrall agreed to this. Regarding the road leading off the Rugeley road to the Turnover Bridge it was stated there was no further development in this matter. It was decided to precept for a 4d. rate. The parish council's views were asked for regarding the very slight rise of population noted in 1961 Census. Councillor Hardcastle stated he thought it due to lack of houses, bus services, and entertainment, and Councillor Upton added he thought it was also difficulty in getting to work and back that forced people to leave the village. It was agreed to enter the village in the 'Best Kept Village' competition, to be run on the same lines as in previous years. A large scale plan was on view of the sewerage scheme. Members agreed that the layout in general appeared a good schme, apart from uncertainty as regards the pumping station proposed to be erected near the church. Mr. Upton stated he had a complaint made to him regarding the lack of a bridge over the Moreton Brook at Parchfields. It was decided a letter be sent to the County Council urging that this matter receive attention, it being a number of years since the matter was first brought up. The date fixed for the annual parish assembly was March 21st, to be held in the Reading Room.

Colton Produce Guild

9/2/62.

At the February meeting of the Colton Village Produce Guild held in the Reading Room, the Chairman, Mr. J. H. Toy, presided, and included in the various business items discussed was the vacancy on the show committee due to the departure of Mr. G. L. Nicholls.

Mr. Toy agreed to fill this 'gap' and expressed regret at Mr. Nicholls' departure from the district. Regarding the request for a representative from the Guild to serve on the Reading Room Entertainment Committee (this had been held over until after the public meeting), Mr. J. F. Peet agreed to serve.

The Chairman reminded members that the March meeting will be the annual one, and a bulb

Colton Rummage Sale

A successful rummage and bring and buy sale took place in the Colton Reading Room on Saturday afternoon, organised by the Women's Institute for their funds. Doorkeeper was Miss Ellen Rotchell, and those attending to refreshments were Mrs. E. M. Sargeant, Miss D. M. Jones, Mrs. E. Atkin, ahd Miss K. Leadbetter. Those in charge of stalls, Mrs. I. Preston, Mrs. N. Jones,

GARDENING EXPERT GIVES ADVICE TO COLTON GUILD

10/2/62.

AT the February meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild, Mr. J. H. Toy (presiding) welcomed Mr. and Mrs R. Fearnehough, of Rodbaston Farm Institute. Mr. Fearnehough gave a talk on planning a garden, touching on various aspects of formal and informal design and the rotation of vegetable crops.

This was followed by a display of coloured slides, including a few of Kew Gardens. Mr. Fearnehough answered questions and was thanked by Mrs. E. Preston.

Mr. Toy agreed to fill a vacancy on the Show Committee, arising through the departure from the district of Mr. G. L. Nicholls. Mr J. F. Peet agreed to serve as the Guild's representative on the Reading Room Entertainment Committee.

Several members expressed an interest in the Rural Community Council's conference on organisation on February 24, and planned to attend.

Mr. Toy reminded members that the March meeting would be the annual meeting, and a bulb show was also planned.

Tea hostesses were Mrs. I. Preston. Mrs. M. E. Hibbs and Miss D. M. Jones.

TIMES

COLTON

ADVANCE 8/2/62

Produce Guild.— The February meeting of the Colton Village Produce Guild held in the Reading Room was not as well attended as usual and several apologies were received. The chairman, Mr. J. H. Toy, presided. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Included in the various business items discussed were the vacancy on the show committee due to the departure of Mr. G. L. Nicholls.

Mr. Toy agreed to fill this "gap" and expressed regret at Mr. Nicholl's departure from the district. Regarding the request for a representative from the Guild to serve on the Reading Room entertainment committee, Mr. J. F. Peet agreed to the election. A letter was read from the Rural Community Council inviting members to attend a conference on February 24th, at which the organising of various events and other matters will be discussed. Several members expressed interest and plan to attend. The chairman reminded members that the March meeting will be the annual general meeting a bulb show is also planned. Mr. Toy extended a welcome to Mr. and Mrs. R. Fearnehough of Rodbaston Farm Institute. Mr. Fearnehough gave a talk on "Planning a Garden," touching on various aspects of planning both formal and informal, and the rotation of vegetable crops. This was followed with a display of coloured slides including one or two of Kew Gardens.

Mr. Fearnehough invited questions and was accorded a vote of thanks by Mrs. Edith Preston. Tea hostesses were Mrs. Ivy Preston, Mrs. M. E. Hibbs and Miss D. M. Jones.

Mothers' Union.—Mothers' Union members of Rugeley Deanery attended a prayer group meeting in St. Luke's Church, Cannock, last week.

The meeting was conducted by Head Deaconess Lambert, and was very well attended. Tea was served by the Cannock members, and afterwards Deaconess Lambert presented a handbag to Mrs. Mary Arnold of Brocton, who was retiring after being deanery presiding member for nine years. The handbag was a token of the members' appreciation of her work. Mrs. Arnold expressed her thanks and the new presiding member, Mrs. C. A. J. Payton of Abbots Bromley, addressed the meeting.

Event Organisers Told "Make Use Of Press"

NEWSLETTER 3/3/62.

Village event organisers were urged at a Stafford conference on Saturday to co-operate, in their own interests, with their local newspapers so that maximum publicity could be obtained.

"It costs nothing to offer good news service to a newspaper and in return you will be well treated," said Mr. Peter Berrisford (Public Relations Officer to Staffordshire County Council).

Mr. Berrisford, former Editor of the "Staffordshire Advertiser and Chronicle," was giving a talk on how to obtain publicity for special occasions to village representatives at a conference arranged by Staffordshire Rural Community Council.

Giving his own experiences, he said that in two and a half years as Public Relations Officer to a local authority he had only once been let down by a newspaper. He was in touch with 50 newspapers in Staffordshire and handled 20 to 30 inquiries a day and yet there had only been one instance of a confidence broken.

"If you are honest with your local newspapers they will be honest with you and it is as simple as that," he said. "That has been my experience

Colton Village Produce Guild

14/12/61

At the December meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild, held in the Reading Room, the Chairman (Mr. J. H. Toy) welcomed Alderman and Mrs. A. N. Hillier, members and visitors.

The Chairman, appealing for volunteers at the annual New Year Social to be held on January 5 said help would be needed in the entertainment section as well as with refreshments.

Mr. G. E. D. Atkins, (senior) extended his and Mrs. Atkins' thanks to those ladies who organised the teas at the recent Digging Contest.

The representative at the recent County meeting, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, gave details about the County Quiz, in the preliminary rounds of which Colton "A" team compete at Tittensor on March 13, and Colton "B" team, at Hanchurch later.

Mrs Hillier gave a delightful talk on 'Travel' by various means of transport, from her childhood, up to the present day. A vote of thanks to her was expressed by Miss R. B. Ravenscroft.

The bring and buy stall, arranged for Rural Community Council funds was in the charge of Mrs. Dora Deacon assisted by Mr. Felton. A competition in charge of Miss G. N. Ravenscroft for a boiling fowl, was won by Ald. Hillier, who returned it. The next winner was Mr. S. J. Timmins. The amount raised was £5 for which Mr. D. N. Gibb R.C.C. Organising Secretary expressed thanks.

A short talk was given by Ald. Hillier about the need by the R.C.C. for more money, if it is to be able to undertake all its aims.

The monthly competitions were judged by Mr. Hillier, and prizes were awarded to Mrs. Ivy Preston, for a Christmas Table arrangement and to Mr. Toy for

organisers of special occasions in the area.

A good organisation would get its plans in the local paper well in advance of the event. Some organisations were always in the paper, some not at all.

IMPORTANT FUNCTION

Mr. Berrisford said that one of his most important functions was helping to arrange the annual reception held by the Chairman of the County Council. Before the event was over each year an informal discussion was held to discuss successes and failures and this was the start of planning for the following year.

Secretaries should personally take care of all details in arranging events and not merely pass work to others. The success of the event was their responsibility.

Attention should be paid to such details as lighting, sound and heating in halls booked for the event. We were becoming more and more a centrally heated nation and more conscious of a warm room than our grandfathers.

Miss E. Ramsden (Secretary to the Chairman of the County Council, Alderman Sir Alfred Owen) gave a talk in which she advised village organisations on how to obtain the services of a VIP at their functions.

Alderman A. N. Hillier acted as Chairman at the con-

Conference discusses organisation

TIMES 3/3/62

Members of Colton and Colwich Village Produce Guilds and Longdon Parish Council were among those attending a conference arranged by Staffordshire Rural Community Council on Saturday. The subject was "Organising social occasions."

Alderman A. N. Hillier, who presided, was supported by Mr. D. N. Gibb (secretary). Mr. P. J. Berford, county public relations officer, gave a talk on the elements of good organisation, stressing the importance of the secretary's job in making the arrangements. He gave

COLTON 6/3/62

PARISH CHURCH.—At the annual parochial meeting of Colton Parish the churchwardens were re-elected for a further year of office as follow: Rector's Warden, Mr Joseph Tittensor; deputy, Mr D. E. Waters; People's Warden Mr. Maurice Williscroft deputy, Mr. W. A. Norman The Diocesan Conference representative is Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, and the Ruridecanal representative is Mr. Norman. Other members of the Church Council were elected as follow: Mr. C. M. Boycott, Mr. and Mrs. A. I. D. Collins, Miss D. A. Cooper

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Weekly Sentinel 2/3/62

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PARKSIDE

5/4/62

Group meeting. — The spring meeting of the Parkside group of Women's Institutes, was held in Kingstone Village Hall and opened with the singing of Jerusalem. Mrs. Heasman of Blithfield being at the piano. Institutes represented were: Abbots Bromley, Blithfield, Colton, Kingstone, Marchington and Marchington Woodlands. Great Haywood Institute sent apologies for absence. Mrs. J. L. Taylor, of Colton, the convener, introduced the chairman, Mrs. J. Gallimore, new president of Kingstone Institute, and welcomed the speaker, Miss H. A. Stonehouse, headmistress of Uttoxeter Secondary Modern Girls School and the county representative Mrs. Prince of Newborough. Mrs. Taylor read the minutes of the autumn meeting, and presented the financial statement and it was agreed the autumn meeting take place on October 22nd., at Marchington Woodlands. Mrs. Prince next gave details of county activities, these being varied. Miss Stonehouse gave a most interesting and enlightening talk on 'Challenge of the Adolescent Girl.' A vote of thanks was proposed to Miss Stonehouse by Mrs. Lowe, of Kingstone, seconded by Mrs. Hibberd of Marchington Woodlands. The competitions were judged by Mrs. Prince and Miss Stonehouse who awarded prizes for: recipe on 'How to keep young' written on a postcard to Mrs. Causen and Mrs. Gallimore (senior), both of Kingstone Institute, and in the four hot cross buns competition, to: Mrs. Husslebee, of Abbots Bromley and Mrs. Preston, a Marchington member. A vote of thanks to the judges was proposed by Mrs. Rees, of Blithfield, seconded by Mrs. Vivian, of Abbots Bromley. Mrs. I. Preston of Colton moved a vote of thanks to Mrs. Warrington who has retired from her position as a delegate to Parkside Group, these remarks being endorsed by the convener. The raffle was won by Mrs. Watson, of Marchington. Social time consisted of community singing Mrs. Lowe playing the accordian and a pantomime play performed by Kingstone members, "The Show must go on." Characters being Mrs. G. Lamb (producer and narrator), Mrs. J. Gallimore (props 'effecte' and wicked fairy), Mrs. C. Whittaker (Princess Beauty and castle watchman), Mrs J. Derry (the good fairy), Miss D. Capewell (Prince Charming), and Mrs. A. Hine sundries in a variety of hats).

PARKSIDE GROUP

The spring meeting of Parkside Group of Women's Institutes was held in Kingstone Village Hall on Monday, when Abbots Bromley, Blithfield, Colton, Kingstone, Marchington and Marchington Woodlands Institutes were represented. An apology was received from Great Haywood.

Mrs. J. L. Taylor (Colton), the convener, introduced the chairman, Mrs. J. Gallimore, Kingstone's new president, and welcomed the speaker, Miss H. A. Stonehouse, headmistress of Uttoxeter Secondary Girls' School, and Mrs. Prince (county representative).

Details of county activities were given by Mrs. Prince and Miss Stonehouse gave an enlightening talk on "the challenge of the adolescent girl."

The competitions were judged by Mrs. Prince and Miss Stonehouse, who awarded prizes for a recipe on "how to keep young" to Mrs. Causer and Mrs. Gallimore, senr. (both of Kingstone); and for four hot cross buns to Mrs. Husselbee (Abbots Bromley) and Mrs. Preston (Marchington).

The judges were thanked by Mrs Rees (Blithfield) and Mrs. Vivian (Abbots Bromley).

The raffle was won by Mrs Watson (Marchington). Social time consisted of community singing accompanied by Mrs. Lowe on the accordian, and pantomime play "The Show must go on," performed by Kingstone members.

The autumn meeting will be held at Marchington Woodlands on October 22.

TIMES 2/3/62

new venture

Times 10/3/62

Colton Village Produce Guild have again given support in the formation of another guild, this time at Whittington. The meeting took place in the village school at Whittington on Saturday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Timmins showed the Colton Guild's films, which were much appreciated and the meeting was addressed by Mr. D. M. Gibb (county secretary) and Mr. C. F. Hinton, of Lichfield, who is the county representative and

COLTON PARISH ASSEMBLY

Mercury 3/3/62

The Annual Parish Assembly for the Parish of Colton was poorly attended there being only three members of the public present although all Parish councillors were present with the exception of Mrs. J. L. Taylor who sent an apology.

After the Clerk, Mrs. P. M. Buckley had read the minutes of the 1961 Assembly the Best Kept Village Competition was discussed, Mr. Fred Hardcastle Chairman, stating he would like to record that the success in 1960 and 1961 competitions was largely due to the work put in by the Chairman of the Village Produce Guild and his wife and other members of the Guild, while a few other members of the public had also helped in small ways. One member of the Guild Mr. S. J. Timmins had himself paid for the framing of both certificates won, in the contests.

A resolution was passed that the Parish Council go ahead with a scheme to beautify the area of ground that used to be known as the 'Green' by the brook bridge.

Mr. G. F. Upton drew attention to the danger that exists at Bellamour Corner to traffic turning into Colton from Rugeley. After various suggestions being put forward, a resolution was passed that a letter be sent to the County Council, Roads and Bridges department, asking that some action be taken on this dangerous corner.

Mr. L. Mellor said a complaint had been made to him, regarding the stretch of road by the cattle pens at the Trent Valley. There

TIMES 2/3/62

At the annual meeting of Colton W.I., Mrs I. Preston was re-elected president for the fifth year, and Mrs. M. S. Toy and Mrs. N. Jones were appointed vice-presidents. Mrs. P. M. Buckley was re-elected secretary, with Mrs. M. L. Waters as her assistant. Mrs. I. R. Brown was appointed treasurer, with Mrs. M. G. Bennett as assistant, and Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft was appointed Press correspondent.

Other committee members appointed were: Mrs. J. L. Taylor, Miss D. M. Jones, Miss E. Rotchell and Mrs. C. M. Sanders. Mr. G. E. D. Atkin, senr., acted as teller for the officers and a vote of thanks to him was proposed by Mrs. Brown. No committee election was necessary as there were only 15 nominations.

Arrangements were completed for attending the spring meeting Parkside Group at Kingstone March 26

It was decided to support a flag day in June for the British Empire Cancer Campaign.

Mrs. Ravenscroft was appointed delegate to the spring council meeting at Stafford, and Mrs. Brown was appointed delegate to the spring council meeting in Stafford, and Mrs. Brown was appointed to represent Coltin and Blithfield at the annual meeting in London.

Mrs. Buckley presented a report on the year's work, saying that there had been record attendances at meetings and several new members had joined. Support had been given to the house-to-house collections for Dr. Barnardo's Homes and Cancer Research.

The report was adopted on the proposition of Mrs. N. Jones

Mrs. Brown presented a satisfactory financial statement, which was

Colton Parish Council

MERCURY. 9/5/62

A large scale plan of the proposed Colton sewerage scheme was on view at the meeting of Colton Parish Council, and members agreed that from the layout in general it appeared to be a good scheme apart from uncertainty regarding the pumping station proposed to be erected near the church.

The Vice-chairman, Mr. A. N. Felton, took the chair.

A long discussion took place regarding the path from the centre of village to the Trent Valley, and a letter was read from Lichfield R.D.C. regarding a visit to the site by a sub-committee. Mr. Hardcastle said he had agreed to their suggested plans for diversion. He did this as the parish representative on the R.D.C. when he accepted this idea as being the lesser of two evils. He also said he had stressed that he was not speaking for the Parish Council when voting for this plan.

Cllr. R. Morrall said he was strongly against any diversion whatsoever of this path; he thought people of Colton parish should be allowed to go on using the path they had always used. This was turned down, and Cllr. Fellor proposed they support their R.D.C. representative and agree to the proposed plan, all members but Cllr. Morrall agreeing to this.

It was decided to precept for a 4d. rate.

The Parish Council's views were asked for regarding the very slight decline of population noted in the 1961 census, and Cllr. Hardcastle stated he thought it due to lack of houses, bus services and entertainment. Cllr. Upton added that he thought it was also difficult in getting to work and back that forced people to leave the village.

It was agreed to enter the village in the "Best Kept Village" competition, to be run on the same lines as in previous years.

Mr. Upton stated he had a complaint made to him regarding the lack of a bridge over the Moreton Brook at Parchfields. It was decided a letter be sent to the County Council urging that this matter receive attention, it being a number of years since the matter was first brought up.

Nurse gives talk to Colton W.I.

TIMES 24/2/62

When members of Colton W.I. met for their February meeting they were given a talk on district nursing by Nurse Dobson, who was introduced by the president, Mrs. I. Preston. Nurse Dobson traced the history of nursing through the ages and district nursing up to date, giving members a real insight into the work involved. She was thanked by Mrs. D. M. Atkin.

Financial statements regarding the recent pantomime outing and rummage sale were considered satisfactory. A letter was read from Mrs. M. S. Toy, thanking the institute for flowers sent to her while in hospital.

Tea hostesses were Mrs. Preston, Mrs. N. Jones and Mrs. L. Jackson, and the stall was in charge of Mrs. E. M. Sargeant and Mrs. Atkin.

The competition for an old Valentine card was judged by Nurse Dobson, and she awarded the prize to Mrs. Tooley. The mystery prize was won by Mrs. P. L. Bannister.

Mercury COLTON 23/3/62

Colton W.I. March meeting was the A.G.M. and with Mrs. I. Preston, President presiding final arrangements for the Spring meeting of the Parkside Group at Kingstone on Monday were announced. A letter was read from the British Empire Cancer Research Campaign, and it was agreed to support the Flag day in the Village in June. Delegate to the Spring Council Meeting at Stafford will be Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, and Mrs. Preston try to attend as visitor. It being the turn of Colton Institute to send a delegate representing Blithfield and Colton at the A.G.M. of the National Federation in London, Mrs. I. R. Brown was appointed delegate. The hon. Secretary Mrs. P. M. Buckley presented the report of the year's work during which there had been a record attendance at meetings. The hon. Treasurer Mrs. Brown presented the financial report which was most satisfactory. Mrs. Tooley proposed a vote of thanks to the President for her efforts on the Institutes behalf, Mrs. Preston thanked the committee as a whole and workers for support given her at all times. She expressed regret that Mrs. E. M. Sargeant, assistant hon-treasurer, and Mrs. D. M. Atkin, assistant hon. secretary were not seeking re-election to the committee. There being only twelve names for new committee no poll was necessary. Mr. G. E. D. Atkins (sen) acted as teller in the election of Officers which was as follows, Mrs. Ivy Preston, President (fifth term of office); 1st Vice-President, Mrs. M. S. Toy, 2nd Vice-President, Mrs. N. Jones; Hon. Secretary Mrs. P. M. Buckley; Assistant hon Secretary Mrs. M. L. Waters; Hon Treasurer Mrs. I. R. Brown; Assistant hon. Treasurer Mrs. M. G. Bennett; Press correspondent Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft. Rest of committee, Mrs. J. L. Taylor, Miss D. M. Jones, Miss Ellen Rotchell and Mrs. C. M. Sanders. A vote of thanks to Mr. Atkin was proposed by Mrs. Brown. Tea Hostesses were Mrs. A. Meddings, Mrs June Meddings, Miss Rotchell and Mrs. M. A. Hutchinson. The competition for four hot cross buns judged by Mrs. Brown was won by Mrs. Preston, and the mystery prize went to Mr. Atkin.

Advertiser COLTON 23/3/62

Women's Institute. — Colto Women's Institute March meetin was the annual meeting. Mrs. I. Preston, president, presided. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed, and the county letter read. Final arrangements regarding the spring meeting of the Parkside group at Kingstone on March 26th were announced, and a letter was read from the British Empire Cancer Research campaign, and it was agreed to support the flag day in the village in June. Delegate to the spring council meeting at Stafford will be Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, and Mrs. Preston will try to attend as visitor. It being the turn of Colton Institute to send a delegate representing Blithfield and Colton at the A.G.M. of the National Federation in London, Mrs. I. R. Brown expressed interest and was appointed as delegate. The hon. secretary, Mrs. P. M. Buckley, presented the report of the year's work. There had been a record attendance at meetings, and several new members had joined. During the year members have given their support to the house-to-house collections for Dr. Barnardo's Homes and the cancer research, and the "good old rummage sale" had again been held successfully. The adoption of the report was moved and thanks to the secretary expressed by Mrs. N. Jones. The hon. treasurer, Mrs. Brown, presented the financial report which was most satisfactory. Mrs. M. L. Waters moved the adoption of this report and thanked Mrs. Brown for so carefully taking care of the "pennies," and also thanked Mr. C. S. Jones who had audited the accounts. Mrs. Tooley proposed a vote of thanks to the president for her efforts on the Institute's behalf. Mrs. Preston thanked the committee as a whole and workers for support given her at all times She also said she would like to express her regret that Mrs. E. M Sargeant, assistant hon. treasurer and Mrs. D. M. Atkin, assistant hon. secretary, were not seeking re-election to the committee. There being only twelve names for new committee no poll was necessary Mr. G. E. D. Atkin (sen.) acted as teller in the election of officers, Mrs. Ivy Preston is president for a fifth term of office; 1st vice-president Mrs. M. S. Toy; 2nd vice-president Mrs. N. Jones; hon. secretary, Mrs. P. M. Buckley; assistant hon. secretary, Mrs. L. Waters, hon. treasurer, Mrs I. R. Brown, assistant hon treasurer, Mrs M. G. Bennett, press correspondent, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft. Rest of committee are: Mrs. J. L. Taylor, Miss D. M. Jones, Miss Ellen Rotchell and Mrs. C. M. Sanders. A vote of thanks to Mr. Atkin was proposed by Mrs. Brown. Tea hostesses were Mrs. A. Meddings, Mrs. June Meddings, Miss Rotchell and Mrs. M. A. Hutchinson. The competition for four hot cross buns was judged by Mrs. Brown and won by Mrs. Preston, and the mystery prize went to Mr. Atkin.

Mothers' Union.— Mothers' Union members from Blithfield and Colton took part in a corporate communion service in St. Mary's Church, Colton, conducted by the Rector, Rev. A. S. Towlson. Mrs. G. E. Finnemore was at the organ. The collection was taken by Miss Ellen Rotchell and Mrs. H. A. Williscroft. Tea was served afterwards at the Rectory.

Miss Doreen Angela Douglas, third daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. T. Douglas, of 109, Rickerscote Road, Stafford, married at St. Peter's, Rickerscote, to Mr. Michael Joseph Tabernor, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. P. Tabernor, of Moreton Farm, Wolseley Bridge, Rugeley

Advertiser 29/3/62

Tabernor—Douglas

Newsletter

The wedding took place at St. Peter's Church, Rickerscote, Stafford, on Saturday of Mr. Michael Joseph Tabernor, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Percy Tabernor, of Moreton Farm, Wolseley Bridges, and Miss Doreen Angela Douglas, third daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. T. Douglas, of 109 Rickerscote-road, Stafford. The Rev. H. A. Pattenden officiated. 31/3/62

Given away by her father, the bride wore a ballerina-length gown of white lace over taffeta and carried a bouquet of pink roses and white freesias.

She was attended by her sisters, the Misses Jean and Brenda Douglas, and the bridegroom's sister, Miss Dorothy

15/2/62 COLTON Mercury

Church Council—At a recent meeting held in the Village School of Colton St Mary's Parochial Church Council The Rector, Rev A S. Towlson, presided. The notices of both the sexton and church cleaner (Mr and Mrs J. Devall) were accepted. The new clerk, Mr A. I. D. Collins, offered to be responsible for the keeping in order of the lawns around the church, and Mrs. Collins offered to clean the church, these offers being gratefully accepted. It was decided to make it well known regarding the need for a Sexton who would also mow the grass in the Cemetery twice a year. It was agreed that a gift day (as last year) be held on Lady Day, for the "Road Fund" and an officer of the Church would also be in church on Saturday, 24 March, to receive gifts. Mr D. E. Waters and Mr B M. Williscroft reported that the Free Will Offering scheme was well worth-while, and had made a slight increase in Church collections. Mr Waters said he still had twenty sets of envelopes available if people interested in the church would come forward and make use of these.

GUILD DOES WELL IN QUIZ

17/3/62

B.B.C.'s Report

TIMES

AT Tittensor Village Hall on Tuesday, two local Village Produce Guilds, Colton and Colwich, entred teams in the preliminary rounds of a county quiz. Colwich became runners-up, with 43 points, to Maer "B" team, and Tittensor came third.

Though Colton "A" came last, they did not feel that they had completely let their guild down, for one member of the team did not arrive, and another member was recruited at the moment of mounting the platform! Both local teams were well supported by fellow-members'.

The question-master was Mr. F W. Farrerr (county chairman) and Mr. D. M. Gibb (county secretary) was timekeeper. Mr. R. Fearnehough, of Rodbaston Farm Institute, acted as judge and Mr. A. Holmes (Tittensor), the county vice-chairman, was scorekeeper.

The Colwich team consisted of Mrs. M. L. Castellan (captain), Mrs. A. Hopper, Mrs. M. I. Finlow and Mr. F. H. Bannister. Colton's team were Mr. T. Preston (captain), Mr. J. H. Toy, Mr. W Preston and Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft.

TIMES members guests 17/3/62 at Colton party

For their annual party, Colton Mothers' Union had as guests a number of the Blithfield mothers who were welcomed by Mrs. J. L. Taylor, enrolling member.

After the meal, a whist drive was arranged by Mr. F. Norman and Miss D. M. Jones organised a beetle drive. Prizes were presented by Mrs. M. Kent (Blithfield) to the following: Whist drive Mesdames I. James, H. V. Lucas, F Cope, R. O. Devall, Kent and I. Vernon; beetle drive: Miss Gwendoline Ravenscroft, Christi Leeke, Jonce and Rosemary D man.

W.I. PARKSIDE GROUP

AN ENJOYABLE MEETING

4/4/62

The spring meeting of the Parkside Group of Women's Institutes was held in Kingstone Village Hall, and opened with the singing of "Jerusalem," Mrs. B. Heasman, of Blithfield, being at the piano. Institutes represented were Abbots Bromley, Blithfield, Colton, Kingstone, Marchington, and Marchington Woodlands. Great Haywood Institute sent an apology for absence.

Mrs. J. L. Taylor, of Colton, the Convener, introduced the Chairman, Mrs. J. Gallimore (new President of Kingstone Institute) and welcomed the speaker, Miss H. A. Stonehouse (Head Mistress of Uttoxeter Secondary Modern Girls' School) and the county representative, Mrs. Prince, of Newborough.

Mrs. Taylor read the minutes of the autumn meeting, and presented the financial statement, and it was agreed the autumn meeting take place this year on October 22, at Marchington Woodlands. Mrs. Prince next gave details of county activities, these being varied.

Miss Stonehouse gave a most interesting and enlightening talk on "Challenge of the Adolescent Girl."

A vote of thanks was proposed to Miss Stonehouse by Mrs. Lowe, of Kingstone, seconded by Mrs. Hibberd, of Marchington Woodlands.

The competitions were judged by Mrs. Prince and Miss Stonehouse, who awarded prizes for a recipe on "How to Keep Young," written on a postcard, to Mrs. Causer and Mrs. Gallimore, sen., both of Kingstone Institute, and in the four hot cross buns competition to Mrs. Husselbee, of Abbots Bromley, and Mrs. Preston, a Marchington member.

A vote of thanks to the judges was proposed by Mrs. Rees, of Blithfield, seconded by Mrs. Vivian, of Abbots Bromley.

Mrs. I. Preston, of Colton, moved a vote of thanks to Mrs. Warrington, who has retired from her position as a delegate to Parkside Group, her remarks being endorsed by the Convener.

The competition was won by Mrs. Watson, of Marchington.

Social time consisted of community singing (Mrs. Lowe playing the accordion) and a pantomime play performed by Kingstone members, "The Show Must Go On," participants being Mrs. G. Lamb (producer and narrator), Mrs. J. Gallimore (props "effects" and Wicked Fairy), Mrs. C. Whittaker (Princess Beauty and Castle Watchman), Mrs. J. Derry (The Good Fairy), Miss D. Capewell (Prince Charming), and Mrs. A. Hine (sundries in a variety of hats).

Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, of Colton, proposed a vote of thanks to the Hostess Institute, for this most entertaining play, and their hospitality.

Mrs. Gallimore expressed her thanks to Mrs. Warrington, and to all Kingstone members who had helped to make the evening a success.

There was a good attendance at the February meeting of Colton Mothers' Union held in the Reading Room, when Mrs. J. L. Taylor Enrolling Member, welcomed Mr. D. E. Waters, Headmaster of the Village School, and licensed Lay Reader, who conducted a short service. The hymn sung was 'Thou whose Almighty Word', Following this Mr. Waters showed a film strip, "The World Wide Mothers' Union" Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft thanked him. A

Whittington Village Produce Guild

MERCURY 9/3/62

DESPITE falling snow and icy roads a keen audience met at Whittington Schools on Saturday to discuss the formation of a Village Produce Guild for Whittington and district.

Under the Chairmanship of Mr. A. Foote the meeting was addressed by Mr. C. F. Horton the Vice-chairman of the National Federation of Village Produce Associations and Mr. D. M. Gibb the Hon. Secretary of the Staffordshire Association.

Several members of the Colton V.P.G. attended and were full of enthusiasm and showed two excellent colour films of the activities of their Guild. The films by Mr. Timmins, a member of Colton V.P.G. gave a good idea of what can be done by co-operation and interest in ones own village.

Mr. Horton said that the V.P.A. was a very informal Association with local Associations or Guilds in each County. The aim was to form a club of interest to all the family even the children. The Women's Institute was for women, the British Legion for men, but the V. P. G. was for everyone.

The objects were to improve rural life and encourage the growing of fruit, vegetables and flowers from local soil, to provide technical advice, lectures, demonstrations and the provision of cheaper seeds, fertilizers etc., and to build up a strong and healthy village life, based on pride in local production.

Mr. Gibb answered many questions and explained how specialist speakers from all over Staffordshire can be obtained through the County Association, but local Guilds organised their meetings to their own liking. Visits to notable public and private gardens are organised periodically, also to shows. Amongst other benefits local soil analysis and advice can be obtained.

What would it cost to become a member? An annual subscription of under five shillings would be sufficient to cover expenses including a monthly magazine if a member desired it.

Lt. Col. C. F. Pitz summarised the feeling of the audience by saying that "anything that Colton could do, Whittington could do too - and better," and it was decided to form a Guild forthwith, A working committee was formed, Major Geoff Turner was appointed Hon: Secretary, and will meet this week to discuss an immediate programme for the first meeting, and as there are so many keen gardeners in Whittington it is hoped that more members will have joined by then.

work of Union overseas

TIMES 24/3/62

There was a good attendance at the February meeting of Colton Mothers' Union, held in the Reading Room, when Mrs. J. L. Taylor (enrolling member) welcomed Mr. D. E. Waters, headmaster of the Church School and licensed lay reader for the parish.

Mr. Waters conducted a short service and showed a film, "The world-wide Mothers' Union," which depicted the real need for members' money for the overseas work of the M.U. A vote of thanks to Mr. Waters was proposed by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft.

A bring and buy stall, for M.U. funds, was staged by Mrs. E. Griffin and Miss Ellen Rotchell. Mrs. I. V. Collins organised a competition for a bottle of sherry, which

YEAR

TIMES. 10/3/62

THE fifth year of its exis had been a most succ one for Colton Village Pr Guild, it was reported wh annual meeting presided by Mr. J. H. Toy, was h the Reading Room.

Miss D. M. Jones (sec presented the committee's a comprehensive survey year's activities, and its ac was moved by Mrs. I. Pres

Mr. A. N. Felton present financial report which ha audited by Mr. C. J. Rave It was agreed that this wa satisfactory and it was a on the proposition of Mr. W ton.

Mr. Toy thanked the and committee members fo help in making the last ye success that it had been

After Mrs. B. M. Rave had given a report on county events, it was deci enter the floral arrangemen petition to be staged at the annual meeting.

A letter was read from A. Brundle (former guild man) thanking members f gift of a climbing rose and ing them every success.

A feature of the evening bulb show, judged by Amphlett, of Abbots Brom awarded prizes for three hy to Mr. A. N. Felton and Mrs Toy, who also took the for four daffodils.

Mr. Amphlett afterward hints on the growing of b

The following were ele the committee: Messrs. G Atkin, senr., Jack Brown, Felton, D. W. Garwood, J. E. J. Poynton, T. Preston Toy. Miss D. M. Jones and M Ravencroft.

Mr. Toy was elected chair the third time, nominations been invited from non-co members. Mr. D. Pollard as teller.

Thanking members for th fidence in him, Mr. Toy a for suggestions in planning programmes, including and said the committee welcome constructive critic

Tea hostesses were Mrs. con and Mrs. C. M. Sande

Home-made wine will subject of the April meeti the competitions will be bottle of wine and six straws.

Colton Produ Guild tean competes in

TIMES 7/4/62

Colton "B" team of th Produce Guild, with their ters, made the journey church on Wednesday to in a quiz. The team con Mr. J. F. Peet (captain Edith Preston; Miss Mary and a schoolboy, Michael

The county chairman, W. Farrer, was questior and Mr. R. K. Mowforth, baston Farm Institute, th Mr. D. M. Gibb (county secretary) acted as timekeeper.

Hanchurch, the winners, now go forward to the finals to be held at Nelson Hall during the annual meeting on April 28.

Other competing teams on Wednesday were Standon and Maer.

COLTON WHIST DRIVE WINNERS

TIMES 24/4/62

A whist drive held in Colton Reading Room on Friday was organised by the Entertainments Committee in aid of Reading Room funds. Mr. P. Westhorpe was M.C. and the prizes were distributed by Mrs. I. V. Collins to the following: — Mrs. E. M. Sargeant, Mr G. E. D. Atkin, senr., Mrs. G.

COLTON

MOTHERS' UNION 7/3/62

There was a good attendance at the monthly meeting of Colton Mothers' Union held in the Reading Room. Mrs. J. L. Taylor (Enrolling Member), welcomed Mr. D. E. Waters (Headmaster of the village school and a licensed Lay Reader) who conducted a short service, and afterwards showed a film-strip, "The world-wide Mothers' Union," which depicted the very real need for the work of the Mothers' Union overseas. The vote of thanks to Mr. Waters was proposed by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft. A bring-and-buy stall was held for M.U. funds, the stallholders being Mrs. E. Griffin and Miss Ellen Rotchell. Mrs. I. V. Collins organised a competition for a bottle of sherry which was won by Anthony Chilton. The amount raised at the stall and by the competition was £6 1s. 6d.

PRODUCE GUILD.—Colton Produce Guild held its fifth annual meeting in the Reading Room, the Chairman (Mr. J. H. Toy) presiding. Miss D. M. Jones (Hon. Secretary) presented the committee's report on the year's work which was adopted on the proposition of Mrs. Ivy Preston. Mr. A. N. Felton (Hon. Treasurer) presented the financial report audited by Mr. C. J. Ravenscroft. Mr. W. Preston moved its adoption. Mr. Toy extended thanks to the Secretary, Treasurer, Auditor and Committee. A letter was read from Mr. R. A. Brundle (former Guild Chairman) thanking members for their gift of a climbing rose and wishing the Guild continued success. A feature of the evening was a bulb show judged by Mr. A. Amphlett, of Abbots Bromley, who awarded the prizes for three hyacinths to Mr. A. N. Felton and Mrs. M. S. Toy and for four daffodils to Mr. Felton and Mrs. Toy. Mr. Amphlett gave a few hints and comments on the growing of bulbs. The election of a new committee took place, the results being: Mr. G. E. D. Atkin, sen., Mr. Jack Brown, Mr. A. N. Felton, Mr. D. W Garwood, Miss D. M. Jones, Mr. J. F. Peet, Mr. E. J. Poynton, Mr. T. Preston, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft and Mr. J. H. Toy. The latter was elected as Chairman for the third time. Tea hostesses were Mrs. D. Deacon and Mrs. C. M. Sanders. Colton Guild has once again helped in the formation of another Guild, at Whittingham, Lichfield, where Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Simmons showed films of Colton's activities.

HE annual parish assembly at Colton on Wednesday passed a resolution asking the parish council to go ahead with a scheme for beautifying the area of ground near the brook bridge, formerly known as the green.

Only three members of the public were present at the meeting, at which Councillor F. Hardcastle (chairman of the parish council) presided, with Mrs. P. M Buckley as clerk.

A request was made for a copy of the Parish Lands Trust accounts to be forwarded to the council for inspection by members of the public.

Regarding entry in the Best Kept Village Competition, Councillor Hardcastle said arrangements were in the hands of the committee, whose chairman was Mrs. M. S. Toy. He reminded members that the successes of the last two years were largely due to the work put in by the Chairman of the Village Produce Guild and his wife, assisted by other memebrs of the guild and the public.

Mr. S. J. Timmins, he said, had paid for the framing of the two certificates awarded to the village.

Councillor G. F. Upton drew attention to the danger existing at Bellamour, to traffic turning towards Colton from Rugeley, and it was resolved that a letter should be sent to the County Council, asking for some action to improve the corner.

Councillor L. Mellor reported a complaint regarding the stretch of road near the cattle pens at Trent Valley, where there was no footpath.

It was decided to point out to the County Council the danger to pedestrians and cyclists at this point, where the road narows.

At a subsequent meeting of the parish council it was decided to apply for a tree preservation order for the village. 24/3/62

Produce Guilds.—At Tittensor Village Hall two local village hall produce guilds, Colton and Colwich, put teams in the 2nd of the preliminary rounds of the county quiz, and Colwich were the runners-up with 43 points, Maer B team being first with 48 points, Tittensor third and Colton A team last. Even so they did not feel they had let their Guild down entirely, as one member of their selected team did not arrive and at the moment of mounting the platform another member had to take his place and fill the "gap," both local teams being well supported by fellow members. The Tittensor chairman extended a warm welcome to the gathering, and the county chairman, Mr. F. W. Farrar who was question master, endorsed his remarks. Mr. D. M. Gibb county secretary, was timekeeper. Mr R. Fearnyhough of Rodbaston Farm Institute, acted as judge, and Mr A. Holmes of Tittensor, county vice-chairman, was score keeper. Time allowed each person for complete answer to a question was one minute. Colwich team were Mrs. M. L. Castellan (captain), Mrs. A. Hopper, Mrs. M. J. Finlow and Mr. F. H. Bannister. Colton team were Mr. T. Preston (captain), Mr. J. H. Toy, Mr. W. Preston and Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft. The captains of each team drew for their set of questions. Mr. Farrer thanked everyone for their support. The last preliminary round will be fought out at Hanchurch on April 4th, when Colton B team will take part. The finals will be at the County General Meeting on April 28 at Nelson Hall Teachers' Training College.

TIMES 3/3/62

Members of Colton and Colwich Village Produce Guilds and London Parish Council were among those attending a conference staged by Staffordshire Rural Community Council on Saturday. The subject was "Organising special occasions."

Alderman A. N. Hillier, who presided, was supported by Mr. D. M. Gibb (secretary). Mr. P. J. Berrisford, county public relations officer, gave a talk on the elements of good organisation, stressing the importance of the secretary's job in making the arrangements. He gave a further talk on Publicity before during and after."

Miss E. Ramsden, secretary to Sir

ADVER **COLTON** 29/3/62

Assembly.—The annual Parish Assembly of Colton was poorly attended, there being only three members of the public present. All parish councillors were present with the exception of Mrs J. L. Taylor who sent an apology. The Clerk, Mrs P. M. Buckley read the minutes of the 1961 Assembly. Matters arising included: That as a copy of the statement of accounts of the Parish lands Trust for 1960. (Those for 1961 being to hand and passed round for inspection) had not been submitted to the Parish Church, a motion was moved asking that a copy of this statement of Parish Lands Trust be forwarded to the Council, for the inspection of members of the public. Next item, was the Best Kept Village Competition. Mr Fred Hardcastle, chairman, stated he would like to record that the success in 1960 and 1961, competitions was largely due to the work put in by the chairman of the Village Produce Guild and his wife and other members of the Guild, and a few other members of the public had also helped in small ways. One member of the Guild, Mr S. J. Timmins had himself payed for the framing of both certificates won, in the contests. Mr. Hardcastle thought that arrangements for this year's competition was in the hands of the best kept village committee whose chairman, is Mrs M. S. Toy. A resolution was passed that the Parish Council go ahead with a scheme of some kind to beautify the area of ground that used to be known as the "Green" by the brook bridge. Mr G. F. Upton drew attention to the danger that exists at Bellomour Corner to traffic, a resolution was passed that a letter be sent to the County Council, Roads and Bridges department asking that some action be taken on this dangerous corner. Mr L. Mellor said a complaint had been made to him, regarding the stretch of road by the cattle pens at the Trent Valley. There being no footpath, it was decided to approach the Roads and Bridges department stressing the danger to pedestrians. Mr Mellor also thought there was danger to cyclists as the road narrows at this point. After Mr. R. Morrall had again strongly protested against the diversion of the public footpath by the Rydal Farm the chairman declared the meeting closed. A very short meeting of the Parish Council followed as a decision had to be reached by the following morning as to application for a tree preservation order, for the village. It was moved by Mr Morrall, and seconded by Mr Upton that this order be applied for, this was carried with one against and one abstention.

1/3/62 **COLTON**

Mothers' Union. — There was a good attendance at the February meeting of Colton Mothers' Union held in the Reading Room, when Mrs. J. L. Taylor, enrolling member, welcomed Mr. D. E. Waters, headmaster of the village school and licensed lay reader, who conducted a short service. Following this, Mr. Waters showed a film strip, "The World Wide Mothers' Union," which depicted the very real need for members' money which goes to the work of the Mothers' Union overseas each year. A vote of thanks to Mr. Waters was proposed on members' behalf by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft. A successful bring and buy stall was staged for M.U. funds. Mrs. E. Griffin and Miss Ellen Rotchell took charge of this stall, and Mrs. I. V. Collins organised a competition for a bottle of sherry which was won by Anthony Chilton. The amount raised by stall and competition was £6 1s. 6d. It was agreed to hold the usual Shrove Tuesday party. Arrangements to follow the lines of previous years and that Blithfield members be invited. It was decided that the Mothers' Union organise a whist drive in co-operation with Mr. Waters, and raise a fund to provide church choir. [illegible]

Rector speaks out on school delay

TIMES

AWN's Report 31/3/62

ONE of Colton's major disappointments of last year was the apparent lack of progress with the modernisation scheme for Colton Church School, estimated to cost £16000, said the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, on Wednesday. But unfortunately there had been a change of ownership in adjoining land needed for the extensions.

Speaking at the annual parochial church meeting, the rector said the planning officers of the Staffordshire County Council were to meet the owners of the land early next week, and he hoped that the meeting would solve the one and only remaining difficulty.

"We must have our school modernised. There is nothing more that anyone can do until agreement can be reached with Lichfield City Laundry, Ltd. over the adjoining land. I do not want to cut across the private vested interests of any indivdual or limited company, but if these vested interests are going to interfere with the church school and its children, some positive action will surely have to be taken. We cannot tolerate this protracted state of affairs much longer," he said.

Colton needing more money for church schemes

TIMES 24/2/62

The resignations of Mr. and Mrs. John Devall, sexton and church cleaner at St. Mary's, Colton, for the last 10 years, were accepted with regret when the Parochial Church Council met recently.

The council accepted the offer of the new clerk, Mr. A. I. D. Collins, to undertake the work of groundsman and the maintenance of the new church lawns entirely voluntarily for the next 12 months.

Mrs. Collins, his wife, offered to clean the church on a voluntary basis for 12 months, and the P.C.C. accepted her offer also.

The meeting, presided over by the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, decided to invite applications for the vacant office of sexton, which includes grave digging and mowing of the church cemetery twice a year. Application should be made to the rector or the churchwardens.

It was agreed that a gift day should be held on March 24, the eve of Lady Day, for the road fund, which had now reached about £380 towards the original estimate of £459.

The rector stated that £80 was still needed for work already completed, plus £70 for the top surface to the road. Discussions were still proceeding with the contractors regarding extras caused through bad weather at the time the work was carried out. If agreed, there will be a further addition to the cost.

Mr. Towlson also stated that £150 was due on the church grounds scheme, for work put in hand

Coo[illegible]

OPPOSED 13/4/62

When the chairman of Colton Parish Council, Mr. F. Hardcastle, informed parish councillors that a Tree Preservation Order had been granted in respect of Colton, Mr. Luke Mellor said he wished it to be recorded that he was very strongly opposed to such an order.

Mr. Mellor said he was all for encouraging the preservation of good trees but did not like imposing orders on such things.

Regarding the bad state of the lane leading from the Rugeley Road to the Turnover bridge a letter was read from British Railways stating that they will attend to the repair of the lane as soon

advrtsr **COLTON** 15/3/62

Mothers' Union.— An enjoyable evening was spent by Colton Mothers' Union members and their guests at the annual party. A number of Blithfield members attended. Mrs. J. L. Taylor, enrolling member, welcomed the gathering. After a meal, a small whist drive was arranged by Mr. Fred Norman, and Miss D. M. Jones organised a beetle drive. Prizes were presented by Mrs. M. Kent, of Blithfield, to winners in whist drive, who were: Mrs. Ivy James, Mrs. H. V. Lucas, Mrs. H. Cope, Mrs. R. O. Devall; longest sitters, Mrs. Kent and Mrs. N. Vernon and winners in beetle drive, the Misses Gwendoline Ravenscroft, Christine Leeke and Joyce and Rosemary Dolman. The competition for a box of sweets organised by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, was won by Mrs. L. Bettson. Musical chairs and musical parcel were played with, Miss Jones at the piano. Team games were played and the "longest strip of newspaper" game was won by Mrs. Weaver of Newton. Mrs. Vernon, enrolling member for Blithfield, thanked Colton members for their hospitality. The singing of "Auld Lang Syne" brought the evening to a close.

Colton.—The March meeting was also the annual meeting, Mrs. I. Preston (President) presiding. The delegate to the spring Council meeting at Stafford will be Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, and Mrs. Preston is to try to attend as visitor. The delegate representing Blithfield and Colton at the annual meeting of the National Federation in London will be Mrs. I. R. Brown. The Hon. Treasurer (Mrs. Brown) presented the financial report, which was most satisfactory. There being only 12 names for the new committee no ballot was necessary. Mrs. Ivy Preston is President for a fifth term of office. Other officers: 1st Vice-President, Mrs. M. S. Toy; 2nd Vice-President, Mrs. N. Jones; Hon. Secretary, Mrs. D. M. Buckley; Assistant Hon. Secretary, Mrs. M. L. Waters; Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. I. R. Brown; Assistant Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. M. G. Bennett; Press correspondent, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft. The rest of the Committee are Mrs. J. L. Taylor, Miss D. M. Jones, Miss Ellen Rotchell and Mrs. C. M. Sanders. Tea hostesses were Mrs. A. Meddings, Mrs. June Meddings, Miss Rotchell and Mrs. M. A. Hutchinson. The competition for four hot-cross buns judged by Mrs. Brown was won by Mrs. Preston, and the mystery prize went to Mr. Atkin, who had acted as teller in the elections.

Freewill offering is better than 'trick' giving, says rector

REPORTING to the annual church meeting that Colton Church grounds scheme was now nearing completion the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, challenged anyone to find a village churchyard kept in a better condition—after making allowances for certain things which still remain to be done.

He said he was open to suggestion on how to raise the remaining £150 for the scheme. In 13 months they had raised £429 and he hoped during the year to complete the tar spraying of the road.

The fabric of the church was in a sound condition, and he thought that if the roof could stand the recent gales, it could stand anything! Plans were now being prepared for a clerk's house.

The rector commended the freewill offering scheme, which was making steady progress. "I believe that direct giving to the Church is far better for the individual concerned than "trick" giving like whist drive prizes. We have a beautiful church and the setting is becoming worthy of it—worthy of our full support," he commented.

Appointments

At the vestry meeting which preceded the annual church meeting the rector re-appointed Mr. J. Titensor as his warden, with Mr D. E. Waters as deputy.

Mr. M. Williscroft was re-elected people's warden with Mr. W Norman as deputy warden.

The following sidesmen were appointed: The wardens, deputy wardens and clerk (Mr. A. I. Dollins) ex-officio; Mr. C. Boycott, Mr. M. Bettson, Mr. A. N. Felton, Mrs. J. L. Taylor, Miss Rochell and Mrs. M. Williscroft.

The rector reported that there were now 251 names on the electoral roll, 13 fewer than a year ago, due to some people having left the district. He thanked Miss D. Cooper (secretary of the P.C.C.) for keeping the roll up to date.

There were eight vacancies for the P.C.C. in addition to the ex-officio representatives: Rector, wardens and deputies, reader, diocesan conference representative (Mrs. B M. Ravenscroft) and ruridecana representatives. The six nominations received were as follows: Mr and Mrs. Collins, Mr. Boycott, Miss Cooper, Mrs. Towlson and Mrs. Taylor, and these were elected.

The statement of accounts presented by Mr. M. Williscroft (treasurer) was adopted, as was the appeal fund account presented by the rector.

Mr. Felton appealed for the burial ground to be tidied up, saying that he hoped the P.C.C. would consider this, as it was not much use having one side of the road tidy and the other side overgrown with weeds.

Mr. Williscroft appealed for help in raising funds so that work on the new burial ground could go forward.

The rector said that the space remaining in the existing cemetery was sufficient for another two years.

Colton Village Produce Guild

Colton Village Produce Guild has now existed for five years and at the annual meeting in the Reading Room Miss D. M. Jones, secretary, presented a comprehensive report of the year's activities, which have been many and varied. The treasurer, Mr. A. N. Felton, presented the financial report which it was agreed was most satisfactory.

It was decided to enter the floral arrangement competition to be staged at the County A.G.M. the judge being the speaker, Mrs. Frances Perry and it was agreed that Mr. Stuart J. Timmins show Colton films at Whittington.

A letter was read from Mr. R. A. Brundle, a former Guild chairman, thanking members for the gift of a climbing rose and wishing the Guild continued success.

A feature of the evening was a bulb show, judged by Mr. A. Amphlett of Abbots Bromley, who awarded the following prizes:—three Hyacinths, Mr. A. N. Felton and Mrs. M. S. Toy; four Daffodils, Mr. Felton and Mrs. Toy. Mr. Amphlett gave a few hints and criticisms on the growing of bulbs.

The following were elected to the committee: Mr. G. E. D. Atkin (senr.), Mr. Jack Brown, Mr. A. N. Felton, Mr. D. W. Garwood, Miss D. M. Jones, Mr. J. F. Peet, Mr. E. J. Poynton, Mr. T. Preston, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft and Mr. J. H. Toy. Mr. Toy was elected as Chairman for a third term of office.

In expressing his thanks for continued confidence placed in him, Mr. Toy asked for suggestions in planning future programme including outings.

Tea hostesses were Mrs. D. Deacon and Mrs. C. M. Sanders.

Home made wine will be the subject of the April meeting and the competitions, a bottle of wine and six cheese straws.

AT CORPORATE SERVICE

For their April meeting, Colton Mothers' Union enjoyed the hospitality of Blithfield members. All joined in a corporate Communion service in St. Leonard's Church, Blithfield, the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, officiating. Miss Eileen Woodward was the organist.

Afterwards, at the invitation of Nancy Lady Bagot, members went to Blithfield Hall for tea, prepared by Blithfield members.

Mrs. Bettson, on behalf of the Colton members, thanked the Blith-

Diversion lesser of two evils

AFTER a long discussion at the meeting of Colton Parish Council, members agreed to support the action of their chairman, Councillor F. Hardcastle, in agreeing to a diversion, suggested by Lichfield Rural Council, of the footpath which runs from the centre of the village to a point near the Trent Valley Station.

A letter from the rural council was read by the clerk, regarding a site visit made by a sub-committee.

Councillor Hardcastle said he agreed to their suggested plans for a diversion as "the lesser of two evils." He told the parish council that he had made it clear to the rural council that he was not speaking for the parish in voting for their plan.

Councillor R. Morrall said he was strongly against any diversion of the path. He thought the people of Colton should be allowed to use the path they had always used.

He was the only dissentient when Councillor L. Mellor's proposal, that the action of the chairman be supported, was carried.

The "Times" reported last week that Lichfield Rural Council had decided that the diversion at Rydal Farm should be to the line between the existing farm road which passed through the field in question, but asked the parish council to confirm that no objection would be raised to the proposal.

Councillor Mellor and G. F. Upton reported that they had not yet had the opportunity to walk the footapth from Stockwell Heath to the yard of Forge House but would do so as soon as possible.

Regarding the road leading from the Rugeley road to Turnover Bridge, it was stated that there was no further development in the matter.

After Councillor Upton had reported a complaint about the lack of a bridge over Moreton Brook at Parchfields, it was decided to ask the County Council to give this their urgent attention, as it was a number of years since the matter was first raised.

for the annual assembly of the parish meeting.

The council decided to precept for a fourpenny rate for the coming financial year. They also decided to enter again for the Best Kept Village Competition.

In reply to the rural council's request for views on the reason for the drop in population since the last census, it was decided to put forward Councillor Hardcastle's points: lack of houses, bus services and entertainment.

Councillor Upton added that there was also the difficulty of getting to work and back home that forced people to leave the village.

A large-scale plan of the village sewerage scheme was on view and members agreed that the layout appeared to show a good scheme, apart from the uncertainty that existed regarding the pumping station, which it was proposed to site near the church.

Order for tree preservation at Colton

At the meeting of Colton Parish Council on Friday, Councillor L. Mellor opposed the granting of a tree preservation order for the village which had been announced by Councillor F. Hardcastle (chairman).

Councillor Mellor asked for it to be recorded that he was strongly opposed to such an order. Though he was all for encouraging the preservation of good trees, he did not like imposing orders on such things.

A letter was read from British Railways stating that they would repair the lane leadng from the Rugeley road to the Turnover Bridge as soon as possible.

It was stated that a letter had also been received regarding the dangers at Bellamour Corner and at Trent Valley. These matters would receive attention, it was stated.

Councillor Hardcastle expressing his interest in the one-day school to be held at Blithfield Hall by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, and said he hoped to attend.

Councillor Mellor said he, too, was hoping to be present.

TREE PRESERVATION.—At the April meeting of Colton Parish Council the Chairman (Mr. F. Hardcastle) stated that a Tree Preservation Order had been granted for Colton. Mr. Luke Mellor said he wished it to be recorded that he was very strongly opposed to such an Order. He was all for encouraging the preservation of good trees but did not like imposing orders respecting such things. Sentinel 13/4/62

PRODUCE GUILD.—Mr. J. H. Toy (Chairman) presided at the monthly meeting of the Colton Produce Guild and welcomed Mrs. Howells, of Wombourn, who gave a talk on home-made wines, bringing along samples for testing. Mrs. Howells gave a bottle of raspberry wine for competition to help Guild funds and this was won by Mrs. E. H. Tabernor. Mrs. Howells also judged competitions. In a competition for home-made wine the highest points went to: 1, Mrs. Edith Preston; 2, Mrs. Dora Deacon; 3, Mrs. M. Preston; 4, Miss Mary Preston. Cheese straws: 1, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft; 2, Mrs. Ivy Preston; 3, Mrs. E. Preston. Miss D. M. Jones and Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft were elected as representatives to the County Executive Committee. Tea hostesses were Mrs. M. G.

COLTON Village Produce Guild, at their April meeting, turned down a suggestion by the chairman, Mr. J. H. Toy, that they should include open classes in their best kept garden competition this year. They felt that entry fees would not cover the prize money. Mr. Toy had suggested that such an open competition might have proved helpful in the Best Kept Village Competition. 14/4/62 Times

The guild decided to stage a small rose show in July, similar to that held last year.

The meeting opened with a talk by Mrs. Howells, of Wombourn, on the making and care of home-made wines, including vegetables, fruit, flowers, leaves and twigs. She invited members to sample the wines she had brought with her.

Mrs. Howells judged the competitions, which are now run on a points basis. In the home-made wine class she awarded the following prizes: 1, Mrs. E. Preston; 2, Mrs. D. Deacon; 3, Mrs. E. Preston; 4, Miss M. Preston. The exhibits were of a high standard, she said.

were made to share transport with Abbots Bromley to the annual meeting at Nelson Hall.

It was decided that the flower arrangement competition which Colton were staging at the meeting would be undertaken by Mrs. M. S. Toy and Mrs. I. Preston.

A letter of thanks from the newly formed guild at Whittington was read. It expressed thanks to the Colton members who by their support and enthusiasm had helped Whittington to get a start.

Discussing the annual show to be held in Colton, it was agreed to hold six classes for farmers, which would not qualify for points to-

INSTITUTES represented at the spring meeting of the Parkside Group of W.I.s held at the Kingstone Village Hall, were, Abbots Bromley, Blithfield, Colton, Kingstone, Marchington and Marchington Woodlands.

Mrs. J. L. Taylor, of Colton (the Convener) introduced the Chairman, Mrs. J. Gallimore, the new President of Kingstone Institute' and welcomed the speaker, Miss H. A. Stonehouse (Headmistress, Uttoxeter Secondary Modern Girls' School) and the County representative, Mrs. Prince, of Newborough.

Miss Stonehouse gave an enlightening talk on "The challenge of the adolescent girl," and was thanked by Mrs. Lowe (Kingstone) and Mrs. Hibberd (Marchington Woodlands). The competitions were judged by Mrs. Prince and Miss Stonehouse, who awarded prizes for a recipe on "How to keep young" written on a postcard, to Mrs. Causer and Mrs. Gallimore, sen., both of Kingstone Institute, and in the four hot cross buns competition to Mrs. Husslebee (Abbots Bromley), and Mrs. Preston (Marchington). The raffle was won by Mrs. Watson, of Marchington.

The social time consisted of community singing, Mrs. Lowe playing the accordion, and a pantomime play "The show must go on" performed by Kingstone members, the characters being Mrs. G. Lamb (producer and narrator), Mrs. J. Gallimore props, effects and wicked fairy, Mrs. C. Whittaker (Princess Beauty and Castle watchman), Mrs. J. Derry (the good fairy), Miss D. Capewell (Prince Charming), and Mrs. A. Hine (sundries in a variety of hats). Sentinel 13/4/62

COLTON

19/4/62

At the April meeting of Colton W.I. held in the Reading Room, Mrs. I. Preston presided and welcomed the speaker, Mrs. E. Fuggle, a Beauty Counselor, who gave an interesting talk and demonstration in the art of 'making up' with Mrs. M. L. Waters as model, Mrs. Fuggle was thanked by Mrs. C. M. Sanders. Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft who gave her report of the Spring Council Meeting at Stafford, was thanked by Mrs. Waters. Tea hostesses were Mrs. D. M. Atkin, Mrs. Buckley, and Mrs. Ravenscroft. The stall was in the charge of Mrs. M. G. Bennett and Mrs. Sanders. The mystery prize went to Mrs. Ravenscroft. The competition for a pair of spectacles made from cardboard only attracted an entry from Mrs. Buckley but these were most attractive. Mercury

SHOWN ART OF MAKE-UP

Times 21/4/62

At the April meeting of Colton W.I., Mrs. E. Fuggle, a beauty counsellor, gave an interesting talk and demonstration on the art of make-up, with Mrs. M. L. Waters as model. She was thanked by Mrs. C. M. Sanders.

Mrs. I. Preston presided, and among the business items dealt with were details connected with the annual village show. Miss D. M. Jones agreed to be one of the W.I. representatives on the Best Kept Village Competition Committee, in place of Mrs. P. M. Buckley, who resigned because of other commitments.

Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft gave her

19/4/62

COLTON

Women's Institute.—At the April meeting of Colton Women's Institute, Mrs I. Preston presided and welcomed the speaker, Mrs. E. Fuggle, a beauty counsellor, who gave a talk and demonstration of make-up with Mrs. M. L. Waters as a model. A vote of thanks was given by Mrs C. M. Sanders. Mrs P M Buckley said she wished to resign as one of the W.I. representatives on the Best-kept Village committee because of other commitments. Miss D. M Jones agreed to fill this gap. Mrs B M Ravenscroft gave a report of the Spring council meeting at Stafford, and was thanked by Mrs. Waters. Tea hostesses were Mrs D. M. Atkin, Mrs Buckley, and Mrs. Ravenscroft. The stall was in charge of Mrs M. G. Bennett and Mrs Sanders. The mystery prize was won by Mrs Ravenscroft. Advertiser

Rummage sale.—On Saturday a rummage sale was held in the Reading Room, Colton. It was organised by the entertainment committee in aid of the fund for improving the room. It raised around £11. In charge of stalls were: Mrs F. Hardcastle, Mrs C M. Sanders, Mrs I. V. Collins and Mrs E. S. D. Herbert, refreshments, Mrs P. L. Bannister, and John Bannister, Mrs. P. M. Buckley was in charge of the competition for a chicken dinner. This was won by Mr. Michael Beaumont. Leslie Collins was doorkeeper. A series of bingo drives are to be held on Friday evenings.

Church Meeting.—At a meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on Friday evening, the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, chairman, introduced Mr. Burkinshaw, a representative of Lichfield Rural Council, who gave details of a pumping station which it is proposed to build on land held by the church council for burials. Mr Burkinshaw showed a large scale plan of the sewerage scheme drawn up for the village of Colton, and also a plan of the pumping station to which the Church Council, through Mr M. Exham, had lodged an objection. Mr Burkinshaw said that his council would plant shrubs round this pumping station and would maintain the road linking it to the highway. After viewing the plans and hearing what Mr Burkinshaw had explained, the Church Council had decided to withdraw its objection in principle. The Rector said that the gift day appeal had reached £82 9s 2d, of which £5 had been donated towards the paths round the church and £2 towards new cassocks for the choir. It was arranged to hold a coffee evening in June with bring and buy stall and dancing, for the church road fund. Regarding Mr D. E. Water's suggestion for a bible class, it was decided as there will be a confirmation service next Lent, to start the classes early in October with either the rector or Mr Waters taking the classes.

Mothers' Union.—For its April meeting Colton Mothers Union joined Blithfield members. All took part in a corporate communion service at St Leonard's Church, Blithfield, conducted by the Rector, the Rev A. S. Towlson. Collections were taken by Mrs G. Cooper, and Mrs. G. Shipley. Afterwards at the invitation of Nancy Lady Bagot, members went to Blithfield Hall for tea. A vote of thanks was given by Mrs L. Bettson. Mrs J. Taylor announced a whist drive would be held on May 4.

19/4/62

Colton M.U.

At their April Meeting, Colton Mothers' Union enjoyed the hospitality of Blithfield members. They joined in a Corporate Communion Service in St. Leonard's Church Blithfield, the Rector the Rev. A. S. Towlson officiating, with Miss Eileen Woodward at the organ. The collections were taken by Mrs. G. Cooper, and Mrs. G. Shipley.

Afterwards at the kind invita-

to Colton V.P.G.

An interesting talk on the making and care of home made wines was given at the April meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild by Mrs. Howells of Wombourn. Introduced by the chairman, Mr. J. H. Toy, she gave instructions on the making of wines from vegetables fruit, flowers, leaves and twigs having brought a variety with her for members to try. Mercury 13/4/62

A bottle of raspberry wine was given by Mrs. Howells for a competition to help guild funds. This was won by Mrs. E. H. Tabernor. Mrs. Howells also judged competitions for home made wine and cheese straws. Prizes were awarded on a points system to:- Home Made Wine. 1, Mrs. Edith Preston; 2, Mrs. Dora Deacon; 3, Mrs. E. Preston; 4, Miss Mary Preston. Cheese straws. 1, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft; 2, Mrs. Ivy Preston; 3, Mrs. E. Preston. A vote of thanks was proposed to Mrs. Howells by Mrs. I. Preston.

Miss D. M. Jones and Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft were elected representatives to the County Executive Committee. Arrangements were made regarding transport to the A.G.M., at Nelson Hall and it was decided that Colton should share a coach with Abbots Bromley. The flower arrangement competition to be staged at this meeting will be undertaken by Mrs. M. S. Toy and Mrs. I. Preston.

A letter was read from Major G. Turner, secretary to the newly formed Whittington Produce Guild, expressing thanks to those members of the Colton Guild who by their support and enthusiasm helped Whittington to get a start.

It was agreed to hold a small rose show in July and to have a Best Kept Garden Competition again this year. Mr. Toy suggested an Open Class in this might be a help in the Best Kept Village Competition but it was considered that the Guild could not undertake this financially.

Mr. Toy announced that a good bowling alley had been promised for the July show and it was decided that classes for farmers would be held at the show. Points in these classes will not be included eligible for the Silver Challenge Cups, however.

The Colton 'B' team who competed in the County Quiz were Mr. J. F. Peet (Capt.), Mrs. Edith Preston, Miss Mary Preston and schoolboy Michael Garwood.

Colton P.C.C. meeting

At a meeting of Colton Parochial Church Council held in the village School on Friday evening, the Rector, Rev. A. S. Towlson Chairman, introduced Mr. Burkinshaw a representative of Lichfield R. D. C., who gave details of the pumping station (part of the sewerage scheme) which it was proposed to erect on land held by the P.C.C., for burial purposes.

Mr. Burkinshaw produced a plan of the sewerage scheme drawn up for the village of Colton, and also a plan of the pumping station to which the P.C.C. (through Mr. M. Exham) had lodged an objection.

Mr. Burkinshaw stated that the R.D.C. would plant shrubs round the pumping station and would maintain the road which would lead to it from the highway.

After viewing the plans and hearing what Mr. Burkinshaw had explained the P.C.C., decided to withdraw their objection in principle.

The Rector stated that the gift day appeal had reached £82/9s/2d, of which £5 had been donated towards the paths round the Church and £2 towards new cassocks for the choir. Mercury 19/4/62

Colton rummage sale

19/4/62

On Saturday afternoon a rummage sale was held in Colton Reading Room organised by the Entertainment Committee in support of the fund for improvement of the Reading Room. About £11 was raised, and in charge of

COLTON

Produce Guild.—At the April meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild held in the Reading Room, Mr. J. H. Toy, chairman, welcomed and introduced Mrs. Howells of Wombourn, who, following the reading and confirming of the March minutes, gave an interesting talk on the making and care of home made wines, including vegetables, fruit, flowers, leaves and twigs. She also showed a variety and invited members to sample them. Mrs. Howells gave a bottle of raspberry wine for a competition to help guild funds. This was won by Mrs. E. H. Tabernor Mrs. Howe , also judged the competitions for home made wine and six cheese straws. The judge awarded first prize in the wine class to Mrs. Edith Preston, second to Mrs. Dora Deacon, third to Mrs. E. Preston and fourth Miss Mary Preston. Mrs. Howells remarked on the very high standard of the exhibits, saying judging had been a very difficult task and it was obvious there were expert wine makers in the guild. In the class for cheese straws, points were awarded to Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, Mrs. Ivy Preston and Mrs. E. Preston. A vote of thanks to Mrs. Howells was given by Mrs. I. Preston. Business matters which followed included, representatives to the county executive committee, Miss D. M. Jones and Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft. The Flower Arrangement Competition to be staged at the annual meeting at Nelson Hall, Eccleshall, will be undertaken by Mrs. M. S. Toy and Mrs. I. Preston. A letter was read from Major G. Turner, secretary of the newly formed Guild of Whittington, expressing that guilds thanks to those members of Colton, who, by their support, and enthusiasm helped Whittington to get a start. It was agreed to hold a small rose show in July as last year and to have a best kept garden competition. The chairman said he wondered if it would be possible to have an open class in this, as he felt it might be a help in the best kept village competition, it was considered the guild could not undertake this financially, it being pointed out that entry fees would not amount to two thirds of the prize money needed. Commenting on show details Mr. Toy announced that a good bowling alley had been promised on loan from Maer, as an added attraction for show day. Mr. Toy went on to say he thought it would be a change to hold half a dozen classes for farmers it being made clear that points in these classes would in no way compete for silver challenge cups. A vote on this idea was taken and it was passed. Entry fees in such classes will be [illegible], as in other sections of the show. Members were reminded of the rule that subscriptions must be paid up before the end of April, if they wished to exhibit at the show. Tea hostesses were Mrs. M. G. Bennett and Mrs. Peggy Peet. Colton 'B' team to compete in Preliminary round of County Quiz at Hanchurch were Mr. J. F. Peet (captain), Mrs. Edith Preston, Miss Mary Preston and schoolboy Michael Garwood. Fellow members went along to support them. Question master was Mr. F. W. Farren, county chairman. Judge Mr. R. K. Mowforth, Rodbaston Farm Institute and time keeper Mr. D. M. Gibbs.

Parish meeting. At a meeting held in the school on Friday all Parish Councillors were present. Mr. Fred Hardcastle, chairman, presided. Regarding a public footpath by the Rydal Farm, it was stated there was no further development at the moment. As regards the bad state of the lane leading from the Rugeley Road to the Turnover Bridge, a letter was read from British Railways saying it will attend to the repair of this lane as soon as possible. Mr. Hardcastle stated that a tree preservation order had been granted for the village of Colton. Mr. Luke Mellor said he wished it to be recorded that he was very strongly opposed to such an order. He was all for encouraging the preservation of good trees but did not like imposing orders on such things.

TIMES 23/4/62

The recent house-to-house collection in Colton parish for Dr. Barnardo's Homes, regarded as the Mothers' Union good deed realised £9 5s. The organiser was Mrs. J. L. Taylor (enrolling member) and collectors were Miss E. Rotchell, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft and Mrs. I. Preston.

In the past year Colton M.U. also sponsored the collection for Moral Welfare and gave donations to the overseas M.U., the Church Army and the Deep Sea Fishermen. Some members also had lenten box collections in their homes for S.P.G. Medical Missions. On May 4 they are supporting a whist drive to provide funds for new cassocks.

Colton.—At the monthly meeting held in the Reading Room, Mrs. I. Preston presided and welcomed Mrs. E. Fuggle, a beauty counsellor, who gave an interesting talk and demonstration in the art of "making up" with Mrs. M. L. Waters as model. Mrs. Fuggle, who also answered questions, was thanked by Mrs. C. M. Sanders. Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft reported on the spring Council meeting at Stafford. Tea hostesses were Mrs. D. M. Atkin, Mrs. Buckley and Mrs. Ravenscroft. In charge of the stall were Mrs. M. G. Bennett and Mrs. Sanders. The mystery prize went to Mrs. Ravenscroft. The competition for a pair of spectacles made from cardboard attracted but one entry, Mrs. Buckley producing a most attractive pair.

ADVERTISER

COLTON 5/5/62

Mothers' Union. — The recent house-to-house collection in Colton parish for Dr. Barnardo's Homes this year has resulted in £9 5s. being forwarded to London headquarters by the organiser, Mrs. J. L. Taylor, M.U. enrolling member. Collectors were Miss Ellen Rotchell, Mrs. B. M. Ravnscroft and Mrs. Ivy Preston. Over the past year the M.U. also sponsored the collection for moral welfare, and has made donations to the overseas work of the M.U., the Church Army, the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen and some members have taken boxes to use for a Lent collection for S.P.G. Medical Missions. Recently two members of Colton branch attended a prayer meeting at St. Mark's, Pye Green, Hednesford, conducted by Head Deaconess Lambert, the collection being for M.U. work ovrseas. Tea was provided by the Pye Green members.

Dance.—A dance took place in the Reading Room and the proceeds are to be given to funds for the re-building of the Stafford Blind Centre.

Parish and Pulpit

TIMES 7/4/62

A.W. Neale Vicar

by Chad

CONCERN that young people of Colton were drifting away from church after they left the village primary school, was expressed by Mr. D. E. Waters at Colton's annual church meeting. Mr. Waters is a licensed lay reader for the parish and headmaster of the church school.

Mr. Waters said they appeared to be losing the 12-14 years-old children. They seemed to go to Hixon or Rugeley, and he could see them gradually drifting away. He wondered if the holding of a bible class during the winter months would help to stop the drift. "I feel that the young people should be given jobs such as collecting or bell-ringing," he said.

The discussion arose after members of the Church Council had expressed their views on the lack of a Sunday school for smaller children. The Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, pointed out that they had a church school in the village at which religious teaching was given not once, but five times a week. He thought it better to use the day school in that way and concentrate on church choirs for the children on Sundays. "The children are certainly not being neglected," he said.

station withdrawn

21/4/62

COLTON Parochial Church Council decided at their meeting, in principle, to the siting of a sewage pumping station on land earmarked for a future burial ground.

Mr Burkinshaw, a representative of Lichfield Rural Council, was present to give details of the pumping station. He produced a large-scale plan of the village sewerage scheme and also a plan of the proposed pumping station to which the Parochial Church Council had lodged an objection.

Mr. Burkinshaw said the rural council would plant shrubs, etc., round the pumping station and would maintain the road which would lead to it from the highway. He pointed out that this was the only suitable site for the pumping station.

The Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, said the gift day appeal had reached £82 9s. 2d., of which £5 had been set aside towards the church paths and £2 towards new choir cassocks.

It was decided to hold a coffee

MR. J. Buckley is an accomplished pianist playing often he has the opportunity of playing on an instrument like the one pictured above.

It is a square piano built by

AT Nelson Hall on Saturday members of Village Produce Guilds from all parts of Staffordshire gathered for their annual meeting. Among them were representatives from Colton, Colwich and Abbots Bromley. TIMES 5/5/62

Mr. F. W. Farrer (county chairman) presided and welcomed the 200 members present. He expressed pleasure that four new guilds had been formed since he last annual meeting 18 months ago; Colwich, Denstone, Shareshill and Whittington, and he paid tribute to the way in which Colton had assisted in their formation.

Commenting on the long winter and late spring, Mr. Farrer said the improved weather of the previous few days had made a great difference, and the long winter may yet turn out to have been a blessing in disguise.

Mr. D. M. Gibb (secretary) presented his annual report and complimented Mr. J. D. Lewis on his efforts in forming the Colwich guild.

Miss J. E. L. Harrison was re-elected president, and on the proposition of Mr. J. H. Toy and Miss D. M. Jones (Colton), Mr. D. M. Gibb was re-elected secretary. J. D. Lewis (Colwich) was appointed treasurer.

Local guild representatives announced for the committee included Mr. G. Arnold (Abbots Bromley); Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft Colton) with Miss D. M. Jones as deputy; Mr. P. Tabenor (Colwich) with Mr. G. Hancox as deputy.

Mrs. Frances Perry, of Middlesex horticulturalist and authoress, also known for her television appearances, then gave a talk in which she explained how some flowers and trees have strong links with the past.

Mrs. Perry had a difficult task in judging the flower arrangement competition but eventually awarded the Harrison trophy to Standon, whose arrangement was the work of Mrs. N. E. Wain, well known for her skill with flowers.

Following tea came the finals in the county quiz, in which Hanchurch, Madeley and Maer competed. Madeley won by four points after a keen contest, and the team will compete later this year against

Produce Guilds

MERCURY 11/5/62

Some 200 were present at the annual meeting of Staffordshire Association of Village Produce Guilds at Nelson Hall on Saturday, where Mr. F. W. Farrer, County Chairman referred to the formation on the new Guild at Whittington, thanking Colton for its efforts in the formation.

Mr. J. D. Lewis of Colwich Guild was among the officers elected (he is Treasurer) his name being proposed by Mr. C. F. Horton of Lichfield, who is vice-chairman of the National Federation and who was re-elected as County representative on the Federation Local guild representation on the Executive Committee includes Mr G. Arnold (Abbots Bromley) and Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft (Colton)

Colton whist

MERCURY 11/5/62

A successful whist drive took place in Colton Reading Room on Friday evening, organised by the Mothers' Union and Mr. D. E. Waters, when, with several donations, and after expenses were paid, £15 18s. was raised for the fund to provide choir cassocks. Mr. Fred Norman was M.C., and Miss Ellen Rotchell presented the prizes to: Mrs. J. L. Taylor, Mr. F. Hardcastle, Mrs. May Cooper, Mr. G. W. Cooper, Mrs. R. O. Devall, Mr. Bernard Bettson; miniatures, Mrs. L. Bettson and Mr. J. W. Hooley; longest sitters, Mrs. W. J. Myatt and Mrs. F. Hardcastle; sealed number, Mrs. L. W. Myatt.

Helpers in the kitchen were: Miss Rotchell, Mrs. E. Griffin Mrs. F. W. and Miss D. A Cooper. Miss Ruth Ravenscroft and Mrs. I. V. Collins, who also

COLTON 11/5/62

Whist.—A whist drive was held in the Reading Room on Friday evening, organised by the Mothers' Union and Mr. D. E. Waters, when, together with several donations, £15 18s. was raised for the fund to provide choir cassocks. Mr. Fred Norman was M.C. and Miss Ellen Rotchell presented the prizes to Mr. J. L. Taylor, Mr. F. Hardcastle, Mrs. May Cooper, Mr. G W. Cooper, Mrs. R. O. Devall, M. Bernard Bettson. Miniatures, Mrs. L. Bettson, and Mr. J. W. Hooley. Longest sitters, Mrs. W. J. Myatt, and Mrs. F. Hardcastle. Sealed number, Mrs L. W. Myatt. Refreshments were served by Miss Rotchell, Mrs. E. Griffin, Mrs. F. W. and Miss D. A. Cooper, Miss Ruth Ravenscroft, and Mrs. I. V. Collins, who also organised the competition for basket of miniature bottles of various drinks. Mrs. L. M. Wain won this competition. Mrs. Taylor, M.U. Enrolling Member, extended thanks to those who had helped with the effort.

Guild.—At the May meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild held in the Reading Room, the chairman, Mr. J. H. Toy, welcomed four new members, Mr and Mrs D. Schmiegle, and Mr. and Mrs. R. Grice. During business items, he said that the number of paid-up members on the register was at present 84. He also remarked on the recent Guild's annual meeting at Nelson Hall. It was announced that two evening outings are planned for the near future, the first being a visit to nurseries at Yoxall, then on June 1st a trip to the dressed wells at Tissington in Derbyshire. The June meeting will be in Mr. and Mrs. Jack Brown's garden. Mr. Toy told members he had had a visit from Mr. D. Nutter of Rugeley, who had asked that Mr. Toy try to encourage members to support his production of "Peer Gynt." Mr. Nutter promised to put on a show at Colton for members next winter. The chairman then welcomed and introduced Mr. Matthews of Rodbaston Farm Institute, who gave a comprehensive talk on "Pig Breeding." A vote of thanks was proposed to Mr. Matthews by Mrs. Edith Preston. After his talk, Mr. Matthews judged the competition

olton M.U. talk on the Christian Family Year

The well-attended May meeting of Colton Mothers' Union took place at Little Hay Manor, by invitation of Mrs. J. L. Taylor (enrolling member).

Mrs. Taylor welcomed Mrs. Mary Arnold, of Brocton, former deanery presiding member, who conducted a short service, and gave an impressive talk on the Christian Family Year. She was thanked by Mrs. I. Preston.

Arrangements are to be made for members to attend the joint service of re-dedication at Abbots Bromley on June 5.

A competition for a cotton skirt, organised by Mrs. I. V. Collins, was won by Mrs. H. M. Felton. The proceeds were added to money raised for the choir cassock fund and a total of £19 was handed to the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson.

Mrs. Taylor mentioned that Blithfield M.U. had suggested that Colton might join them in a visit to Shallowford Retreat House in September and she hoped as many members as possible would support this.

Following tea, Mr. J. A. Best showed his film of church garden parties and he was thanked by Mrs. Taylor.

MISS COLTON

MISS CHRISTINE JONES, 16 years-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Jones, of the Haven, Blithbury Road, Rugeley, was selected as "Miss Colton" at a dance held in the Reading Room on Friday. A Rugeley Grammar School pupil, she will represent her parish at the Rugeley Carnival Queen selection dance on June 22.

The judges were: Mrs. N. Cope, Mr. and Mrs. H. Barham, Mr. and Mrs. M. Grove and Mr. J. Edwards.

RODBASTON EXPERT TALKS TO COLTON GUILD

PRESIDING at the May meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild, the chairman, Mr. J. H. Toy, welcomed four new members—Mr. and Mrs. D. Schmieglow and Mrs. and Mrs. R. Grice. He reported that the number of paid-up members was now 84.

It was announced that two evening outings were planned for the near future, one being to the nurseries at Yoxall; the other, on June 1, to the dressed wells at Tissington.

The June meeting will be held, if the weather is favourable, in Mr. and Mrs. Jack Brown's garden.

Mr. J. C. Matthews, vice-principal of Rodbaston Farm Institute, gave a comprehensive talk on pig breeding, holding the interest even of those who do not keep pigs. He also answered questions.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs. E. Preston, who, being a keen pig keeper, asked that Mr. Matthews be invited to address the guild again.

Mr. Matthews judged the competition for an arrangement of spring flowers. This proved no easy task as there was such a good display. He awarded points to the following: 1, Mr. Jack Brown; 2, Mrs. E. Preston; 3, Mr. T. Preston.

The competition, organised by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, for a bottle of home-made comfrey wine, given by Mrs. E. Preston (one of her winning bottles at the April meeting), was won by Mrs. E. H. Taberner.

Tea hostesses were Mrs. C. M. Aymes and Mrs. J. Garwood, assisted by Michael Garwood.

Colton Mothers' Union

The recent House to House collection in Colton Parish for Dr. Barnardo Homes this year regarded as a Mothers' Union 'Good Deed' has resulted in £9/5s., being forwarded to London headquarters by the organiser Mrs. L. Taylor (M.U. Enrolling Member). Collectors were Miss Ellis Rotchell, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft and Mrs. Ivy Preston. Over the past year the M.U. also sponsored the collection for Moral Welfare and has made donations to the Overseas work of the M.U., the Church Army, the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen. Some members have taken home boxes (from Mr. D. E. Waters) to use for a Lent collection for S.P.G. Medical Missions.

PRODUCE GUILD

At the May meeting of the Colton Village Produce Guild held in the Reading Room, the Chairman, Mr. J. H. Toy, presided and welcomed four new members, Mr. and Mrs. D. Schmieglow and Mr. and Mrs. R. Grice.

It was announced that two evening outings are planned for the near future, the first being a visit to Nurseries at Yoxall the following week, then on June 1 a trip is being arranged to the dressed Wells at Tissington, in Derbyshire. The June meeting will be (weather being favourable), in Mr. and Mrs. Jack Brown's garden.

The Chairman welcomed and introduced Mr. Matthews, of Rodbaston Farm Institute, who gave a comprehensive talk on "Pig Breeding." A vote of thanks was proposed to Mr. Matthews by Mrs. Edith Preston.

Following his talk, Mr. Matthews judged the competition for an arrangement of spring flowers. Winners were: 1, Mr. Jack Brown; 2, Mrs. E. Preston; 3, Mr. T. Preston. The competition for a bottle of home-made wine given by Mrs. E. Preston, and organised by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, was won by Mrs. E. H. Tabernor.

Tea hostesses were Mrs. C. M. Amyes and Mrs. Joan Garwood, assisted by Michael Garwood.

Protection of birds

Sir,—I would greatly appreciate the use of space in your columns to draw attention to the regrettable incidence at this time of year of nest ragging, and occasionally utterly shameful atrocities against birds and fledglings.

I believe the only really effective method of dealing with this behaviour by a small minority of boys is to educate them to be above it, which task falls upon parents and school teachers—principally parents.

I realise that much good work has already been done in this direction, but there are, nevertheless, still a few who skulk along the hedgerows and submit young birds to the most frightful and drawn-out deaths—perhaps in an effort to bolster a wrongly and sorely developing manhood.

It is worth a moment's reflection that mankind could not continue to exist without birds, whereas birds would undoubtedly be far better off without us.

J. F. Peet.

Cedar Cottage,
Colton.

COLTON W.I. PRESS FOR PHONE KIOSK

Colton Women's Institute are pressing for a telephone kiosk to be sited at the top end of the village. At the meeting held last week, Mrs. M. S. Toy asked that a letter should be sent to the authorities asking for a kiosk.

Many members supported Mrs. Toy, and Mrs. I. R. Brown stressed that it would relieve pressure on private telephones.

Members living at the extreme end of the village pointed out that in the event of a night emergency they had to go all the way down to the village to telephone.

Mrs. I. Preston presided at the meeting, and arrangements were made for the exhibition of fancy cakes and bread rolls at the County Show.

Mrs. Brown was given voting instructions for the annual meeting of the National Federation, which she will attend as Colton's delegate.

Mrs. Preston welcomed Miss D. Smith, of the United Nations Association, who gave an interesting talk on the work of the association. She was thanked by Mrs. V. Pratt.

Tea hostesses were Mrs. E. M. Sargeant, Mrs. J. L. Taylor and Mrs. Toy. The stall was in the charge of Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft.

The mystery prize was won by Mrs. C. M. Sanders and the competition four four bridge rolls, judged by Miss Smith, was won by Mrs. Preston.

Punishment befitting crimes

Sir, — I have, perhaps a little late, seen the letters sent by Mr. F. Peet and Mr. Cecil J. Ravenscroft to the "Times" concerning the nest of robins, the birds having been mutilated by youths.

Is it not time that this simpering, kid-gloved attitude by the law be changed to a more realistic approach? The cruel, sadistic brutality is too often treated with probation, approved school, warning, or perhaps a friendly chat, by the authorities. Let the punishment fit the crime, then we may see a smaller crime sheet, with more respect for people, police and wild life. Those robins gave more joy and happiness to an already tense world than the liberty of the gutless, undisciplined thugs, unfortunately still not caught.

There is too much of this cruel tendency today by children and adults. The world will be a poorer place without our feathered and furred friends. As we may "Find tongues in trees, books in the running brooks" so can we find

buy cassocks

A whist drive held in Colton Reading Room on Friday, organised jointly by the Mothers' Union and Mr. D. E. Waters, raised £15 18s. for the fund to provide new choir cassocks, when several donations had been included.

Mr. F. Norman was M.C. and Miss E. Rotchell presented the prizes to the following: Mrs. J. L. Taylor, Mr. F. Hardcastle, Mrs M. Cooper, Mr. G. W. Cooper, Mrs. R. O. Devall, Mr. B. Bettson: miniatures: Mrs. L. Bettson, Mr. J. W. Hooley: longest sitters: Mrs.

COLTON

Guild.—Last week more than 20 members of Colton Village Produce Guild visited Mr Deaville's nurseries at Yoxall. This had been arranged by Mr George Arnold, chairman of Abbots Bromley Guild. Refreshments were provided by Mrs Deaville.

Dance.—On Friday evening a dance organised by the British Legion took place in the Reading Room, to the music of the Sky Rockets band. The object was to choose "Miss Colton." Judges were Mrs Cope, Mr and Mrs Barham, Mr and Mrs Groves, and Mr J. Edwards. Miss Christine Jones of "The Haven," Blithbury Road, was their choice.

W.I.—The May meeting of Colton Women's Institute took place in the Reading Room last week, the president, Mrs I. Preston, presiding. After the minutes had been read and confirmed and the county letter read, various business matters were discussed included arrangements regarding the exhibits at the County Show. Resolutions for the A.G.M. of the National Federation were talked over and the delegae, Mrs I. R. Brown, instructed as to voting. Orders for diaries were taken, and suggestions for a summer outing were asked for. Mrs M. S. Toy asked if it would be agreed that a letter go from the W.I. requesting a telephone kiosk for the top end of Colton village. It was felt there was a need for a kiosk in this area of the village. Mrs. Brown remarked it would relieve pressure on private phones. Members who live at that end of the village said it would be a very good thing if they had a kiosk. On many occasions they had to go down the village in emergency during the night. Mrs Preston welcomed and introduced Miss D. Smith of the United Nations Organisation, who gave a talk on the work of this associa-

Professor talks to Colwich Produce Guild

At the monthly meeting of Colwich Village Produce Guild the guest speaker was Prof. Alan Gemmell, of Keele University. He spoke in a racy and interesting manner on the history of potatoes and the way in which their use had spread throughout the world from early days.

Members of Colton and Abbots Bromley guilds were present as guests at the meeting.

The competition for a decorated boiled egg was won by Miss W. M. Baines.

COLTON

The May meeting of Colton W.I. took place in the Reading Room, with the President Mrs. I. Preston presiding. Resolutions for the A.G.M., of the National Federation were talked over and the Delegate Mrs. I. R. Brown instructed as to voting. Suggestions as to Summer outings were asked for. Mrs. N. S. Toy asked that a letter go from the W.I. requesting a telephone kiosk for the top end of Colton Village, and it was felt there was a need for one in this area. Mrs. Preston welcomed and introduced Miss D. Smith of the United Nations Organisation who gave an interesting talk on the work of the association, and invited questions. Miss Smith was accorded a vote of thanks by Mrs. V. Pratt. Tea Hostesses were Mrs E. M. Sargeant, Mrs.

Memb... Y.C. R.

COLTON

Mothers' Union.— May meeting of Colton Mothers' Union took place at Little Hay Manor last week by invitation of Mrs. J. L. Taylor, enrolling member, who welcomed Mrs Mary Arnold, of Brocton, former Deanery Presiding member. Mrs Arnold conducted a short service, and gave a talk on Christian Family Year which was to start the following day with a service in Westminster Abbey attended by the Queen. A vote of thanks was given to Mrs Arnold by Mrs Ivy Preston. Arrangements are to be made for members to attend the joint service of re-dedication at Abbots Bromley on June 5th. A letter was read from Mrs. K. Parr expressing her appreciation for flowers sent during her recent illness. A competition was organised by Mrs I. V. Collins for a cotton skirt. Mrs H. M. Felton was the winner. The proceeds of the competition were added to money raised for the choir cassock fund, and a total of £19 was handed over to the Rector, the Rev A. S. Towlson by the enrolling member and the treasurer. The Rector thanked them for this contribution. Mrs Taylor mentioned that Blithfield M.U. had suggested Colton might be interested to join them in a visit to Shallowford Retreat House in September, and she hoped as many members as possible would support this. Following tea, Mrs J. A. Best showed films of the years 1955 and 1956 Church Garden Parties. Mrs Taylor thanked Mrs Best. Mrs Preston proposed a vote of thanks to their enrolling member for her hospitality.

Rummage.—Rummage sale took place in the village school on Friday evening organised by the headmaster and staff for school funds. Mr G. E. D. Atkin senr. was doorkeeper, and at the stalls were Mrs D. R. Shaw, Miss Able, Mrs. F. and Miss D. Grimley, Mrs. R. O. Dera..., Mrs P. L. Bannister, Mrs. L. Cullis, Mrs I. V. Collins, and Mrs E. E. Myatt. Teas were served by Mrs M. S. Toy, Mrs H. A. Wainscott, Mrs P. M. Buckley, Mrs N. Deva... and Mrs T. Gamble. Competition prizes went to: Mrs M. E. Everall, Miss Zoe Price, and Miss Rosemary Preston.

Successes.—Pupils of Colton C... E. School who have been s... Rugeley Training Place a P...

County Show 24/5/62

Mrs. F. Cowcill and Mrs. R. J. Fairbanks look at th... fancy cakes and rolls in the Women's Institute te...

Sir,—Most of your readers will not know of the incident which prompted Mr. J. F. Peet to write to the "Times" as he did last week.

The story concerns a nest of robins in a hedge bank quite close to my home. On the morning of Sunday, May 13, they were alive and, it is believed, quite normal. In the evening my two daughters fetched me to see what had happened. Five little robins were pinned by their necks in a row along a strand of barbed wire in the fence which runs over what had been their home. They had either had their necks wrung and had then been pinned up or else each had been pinned up alive. Several youths are known to have been near the nest, but there was no clue which would have led to a useful report being made to the R.S.P.C.A. or to the police and to the prosecution of the perpetrator or perpetrators of this outrage.

On Monday, however, my daughter reported the incident to the police at Rugeley, and the next day a magistrates (Mr. Peet's wife) took the matter up with the police. As the result of this, two policemen questioned a number of youths, but their inquiries did not bring to light sufficient evidence for them to act upon. It is hoped that the action taken by the police will act as a deterrent.

The danger from the larger species of the animal world can often cause a would-be aggressor to have second thoughts regarding the safety of his skin, but this is not the happy lot of our feathered friends. They can, however, be helped by giving to the local inspector of the R.S.P.C.A. or to the police any information one may have which will enable them to take proceedings in appropriate cases.

In attempting to assess the type of mentality possessed by the guilty one or ones, in this case, one wonders what on earth could prompt them to perpetrate such a brutal, sadistic and satanic act.

Cecil J. Ravenscroft.

Holly Cottage,
Colton.

26/5/62

Trophy for Colton best kept garden competition

COLTON Parish Councillors met in the Reading Room o Monday and elected Councillor A. Felton (vice-chair man) as chairman in succession to Councillor Fre Hardcastle, who had occupied the office for the agree period of two years. Councillor L. Mellor was elected vice chairman.

Councillors Hardcastle and R. Morrall were elected as the council's representatives on the Village Hall Committees, and Councillor Hardcastle agreed to continue as snow clearing (contingency) supervisor, appointed to represent the council on the Best Kept Village Committee were Councillors Morrall, Felton and G. F. Upton.

Councillor Hardcastle thanked the members for their co-operation during his term of office, and he, in turn, was thanked by Councillor Mrs. J. L. Taylor for the way in which he had carried out his duties.

Support was given to a recommendation by the competition committee that a best kept garden competition should be organised, on lines similar to that run by the Village Produce Guild, and Councillor Hardcastle proposed that a silver challenge cup should be purchased for competition.

This was approved, and it was also agreed that the runner-up sl[illegible]

June 3, and report to the rura council.

Councillor Mellor reported tha he had inspected the footpat leading from Forge House Yard t Stockwell Heath and found tha there had been no change sinc the last inspection. It was decide to send a further letter to th owner.

No reply had been received t previous letters, it was stated, an it was decided that in the even of the council not getting a reply action should be taken to remov the obstructions complained about

The meeting agreed upon a pre cept of £40 for the coming an the Parish Lands Trust account were inspected.

A letter was received from the County Roads and Bridges department expressing agreement that danger to pedestrians existed in consequence of there being no footpath by the cattle pens a Trent Valley.

Councillor Hardcastle stressed that something should be done, i only appropriate signs erected, and he moved that a further letter be sent emphasising the danger to pedestrians

Turned down

A letter was received from Mrs. M. S. Toy pointing out the need for a telephone kiosk in the vicinity of the Dun Cow Inn, and it was decided to ask the rural council to press for this facility.

Councillor Hardcastle said the rural council were in favour, but the department concerned had turned it down as being uneconomical.

The need for bus shelters was also stressed.

Concern was again expressed at the lack of a bridge over Moreton Brook at Parchfields.

During a discussion on the Best Kept Village Competition attention was called to eyesores over which neither the council nor the competition committee had any control, and Councillor Morrall said he had suggested that each member of the committee should be responsible for a certain length of the village.

No definite agreement was reached.

It was announced that the annual conference of the Staffordshire Association of Parish Councils would be held at the County Buildings, Stafford, on June 2, and Councillors Hardcastle, Felton and Mellor, and possibly Councillor Mrs. Taylor, hope to attend as delegates.

No second 'phone kiosk for Colton, W.I. told

AT the June meeting of Colton Women's Institute, Mrs. I. Preston presided, and welcomed a new member, Mrs. B. E. Spencer. She also congratulated Mrs. C. W. Cooper, who celebrated her golden wedding anniversary the previous week-end.

It was reported that the telephone manager, replying to their request for an additional telephone kiosk at the top of the village, said that the existing kiosk at the Pinfold only took about £70 per year. This did not, therefore, warrant a second kiosk for Colton.

The members decided that it was not possible for them to organise an effort for the Reading Room Improvement Fund, but later on they could co-operate with another organisation.

The president commented on the interesting conference for officers and committee members which she and Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft had attended at Stafford.

Mrs C. M. Sanders resigned as W.I. representative on the Reading Room Entertainment, but no successor could be found.

An appeal for children's books for dispatch to Kenya was made.

Attending the meeting were Mr. Barrett and two pupils from the Needwood School for the Partially Deaf, and Mr. Barrett gave a talk on his work of teaching the deaf and the pupils spoke of their school life.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs. I. R. Brown, who also reported on her visit to the N.F.W.I. meeting in London.

Staff organises jumble sale for school funds

School funds benefited considerably on Friday when a jumble sale was held in St. Mary's School, Colton. It was organised by Mr. D. E. Waters (headmaster) and his staff.

Stallholders were: Mrs. D. R. Shaw, Miss Able, Mrs. F. and Miss D. Grimley, Mesdames R. O. Devall, P. L. Bannister, L. Curtiss,

Colton Parish Council

NEED FOR TELEPHONE KIOSK

WITH the development going on at the Dun Cow end of the village of Colton there was now an even greater public need for a telephone kiosk near the Dun Cow Inn, commented Cllr. F. Hardcastle at the initial meeting of Colton Parish Council at the Reading Room on Monday evening.

A discussion on the need for telephone kiosk arose out of letter of complaint from Mrs. M S. Toy. Cllr. Hardcastle move that a letter be sent to Lichfiel R.D.C. asking them to press fo the erection of a kiosk after h had explained to the meeting tha the R.D.C. were in favour of kiosk being erected but th Minister concerned had turne the request down as being un economical.

The parish council are also t press for 'bus shelters—it wa thought that at least two wer needed.

Regarding the non-replacemer of the bridge over Moretc Brook at Parchfields, Cllr. Har castle reported that he ha visited the site recently. F moved a resolution that further letter be sent the County Council Roads an Bridges Department statin that the matter had gone far too long and that the Pari Council were very concerned the lack of a bridge, particular as it was becoming a nuisan to the adjoining land-owner.

BELLAMOUR CORNER

A letter was read from t Roads and Bridges Departme regarding Bellamour Corner. T letter stated that this corner h been inspected from the Bel mour End. This not being end in question the Par Council replied to the Departm pointing out that it was the of the corner leading into village that they were concer with.

The Roads and Bridges Dep ment also stated in a letter t they appreciated the dan caused by the absence of a fo path near the cattle pens Trent Valley but that it did seem possible for any steps to taken at the present time. C Hardcastle said he conside some action should be taken ev if only the appropriate signs w erected and he moved that further letter be sent to the partment stressing the danger pedestrians.

Arising from the minutes the last meeting Cllr. Hardca referred to the matter of Ry footpath. He said the matter wa now closed and he was ve pleased about this because t subject had cropped up at eve meeting for a year. He went to explain that the matter w now in the hands of the R.D. and the land-owner concern but it was the duty of the Pari Council to see that the path w kept in order. It was agreed make an inspection of the path

Cllr. L. Mellor said he had spected the footpath leading fr Forge House yard to Stockv Heath and had found no cha since the last inspection. It proposed by Cllr. Hardcastle t a further letter be sent to land-owner concerned and if satisfaction was gained Parish Council take action remove the obstructions c plained about.

It was decided at the mee to organise a Best Kept Gar competition in conjunction

COLTON

Council.—The initial meetin Colton Parish Council took in the Reading Room last week retiring chairman, Mr. Fred H castle, took the chair for the item on the agenda — the ele of officers. He explained t had now cor[illegible] his two as chairman and therefore accordance with a ruling made, his recommendation some few y ago, he could not be elected a Councillor A Norris Felton, du chairman for the past two y was elected chairman and Cou lor Luke Mellor, vice-chairm Representatives on village hal mittee of management, Council F. Hardcastle and R Morrall; Hardcastle agree to carry on as s clearing contingency supervi "best kept village" committee re sentatives, Councillors Morrall, ton and G F Upton. No appo ments were made on school ma ment or parish lands trust this Councillor Hardcastle thanked mes bers for their co-operation du his term of office, and Councilo Mrs. J L Taylor thanked himau return for his service. Taking chair, Councillor Felton said would try to follow in the steps the last chairman as far as he cit able. Councillor Mellor expres the same remarks on election vice-chairman Following the read of the minutes of the last meet by the Clerk, Mrs. P M Buckl various matters arising weer de with, including the Rydal footpa Mr. Hardcastle said the matter now closed. He went on to expla how the matter now stood wit Lichfield Rural District Council, a the landowner concerned, and sa it was the duty of the Parish Coun to see that this path was kept order as stated by the RDC. It we agreed to inspect the path Sunday, June 3, and report back h the RDC. Mr Morrall said he w very pleased the matter had bee settled in the way he always fe it ought to be, that the public shou be able to use the original path. Ma Mellor stated he had inspected t footpath leading from Forge Hou Yard to Stockwell Heath, and foun no change since the last inspectio It was proposed by Mr. Hardcastl and seconded by Mr Upton, that further letter should be sent to th landowner concerned, no reply hav ing been received to previous letters and if no satisfactory reply came, the Parish Council take action and take away the obstructions complained about.

It was proposed by Councillor Mellor, seconded by Councillor Morrall, the precept be for £40. The Parish Lands Trust accounts for 1960 were compared with the 1961 accounts. A letter was read from the Roads and Bridges department regarding Bellamour Corner, from which it appears they had inspected the corner at Bellamour End, not the corner in question leading into the village from Rugeley. It was stated a further letter had been sent pointing this out to the department concerned. Regarding the complaint lodged as to there being no footpath by the cattle pens at Trent Valley, reply stated that it was agreed danger did exist, but it did not seem possible for any steps to be taken at the present time. Mr. Hardcastle said he considered some action should be taken if only appropriate signs erected, he moved that a further letter be sent stressing the danger to pedestrians. A letter was read from Mrs. M S Toy about the need for a telephone kiosk somewhere near the Dun Cow Inn. Councillor Hardcastle moved that a letter be sent to Lichfield RDC, asking them to press for the erection of a kiosk, which he considered a necessity, and with development at the top of the village this public service should be granted. He explained the RDC were in favour this, but the Minister concerne

News from

A GOLDEN AT COLTON

MR. and Mrs. Charles William Cooper, of Eva's Cottages, 49, High Street, Colton, celebrated their golden wedding on Saturday in the cottage to which they came immediately after their marriage.

Mr. Cooper was born at Colton, and married Miss Alice Maud Marshall, of Wolverhampton, at St. Andrew's Church, Wolverhampton. He is now 76, and his wife is 71.

A keen gardener, Mr. Cooper worked for many years for Stokes and Company (Tanners), Ltd., Rugeley. Mrs. Cooper is a member of the Mothers' Union, the Women's Institute, and the Village Produce Guild at Colton.

They have a married son, Mr. Reginald Cooper, who lives at Penn; a married daughter, Mrs. Muriel Machin, who lives at Stafford, and a single daughter, Miss Eva Cooper, who works in Wolverhampton and spends week-ends with her parents. There are seven grandchildren.

The golden wedding was celebrated with a family party on Sunday.

Colton M.U. talk on Christian Family Year

Mrs N R Torrington visited Colton M U and gave an inspiring talk on aspects of Christian Family Year after conducting a short service. She was introduced by Mrs J L Taylor, the enrolling member. Mrs H A Williscroft proposed the vote of thanks.

Congratulations to Mrs. C. W. Cooper on the occasion of her golden wedding were extended by Mrs Taylor.

Mrs Taylor also urged members to attend the deanery festival at St Augustine's, Rugeley, on July 6.

A long discussion arose on a letter from the Reading Room Management Committee, appealing for help. It was decided to hold a social and buy stall at the

Colton Y.C. helps Reading Room

Colton Youth Club organised a dance in the Reading Room on Friday in aid of the Reading Room Improvement Fund. Music was supplied by the Grasshoppers Band.

Refreshments were in charge of

COLTON

The June Meeting of the Colton W.I., was held in the Reading Room. Mrs. Ivy Preston (President) presided, welcomed a new member, Mrs. B. E. Spencer and congratulated Mrs. A. M. Cooper on her Golden Wedding the previous weekend. A letter was read from the telephone Manager regarding the request for a Kiosk at the top end of the village. It was pointed out that the kiosk in the Pinfold only takes about £70 a year, and therefore this does not warrant another kiosk for Colton. A letter was read from Mrs. C. A. Tooley, expressing thanks for flowers received during her recent stay in hospital.

The President commented on the helpful conference for Officers and Committee members which she and Mrs. Ravenscroft had attended at Stafford. An appeal was read for good children's books to be sent to Kenya; Mrs. Brown said she would be willing to store them. The President introduced Mr. Barrett of Needwood School for the partially deaf who was accompanied by two pupils of the school. Mr. Barrett who gave an interesting talk on the work of teaching the partially deaf, was thanked by Mrs. I. R. Brown, who also gave a comprehensive report of her visit as delegate for Colton and Blithfield to the National Federation A.G.M., in London. Tea hostesses were, Mrs. P. B. Best, Mrs. Cooper, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft and Miss E. Rotchell. The competition prize for a box of sweets was awarded to Miss Jones and the mystery to Mrs. D. M. Atkin.

Guild visit to dressd wells at Tissington

Members of Colton Village Produce Guild and their friends spent an enjoyable evening on Friday when they visited the dressed wells at Tissington, Derbyshire.

For some it was their first visit to that picturesque village but others had been there several times. All, however, marvelled at the skill and patience revealed in the work of art — making biblical pictures out of flowers and greenery round the five wells.

This year the pictures represent the Prodigal Son, Rebecca at the Well, the Crucifixion, a storm at sea with the words: "Even the winds and waves obey Him," and a scene at the Communion rail.

MOTHERS' UNION

Colton Mothers' Union held their June meeting in the Reading Room, when Mrs. J. L. Taylor, Enrolling Member, welcomed Mrs. N. R. Torrington (wife of the Vicar of Rugeley), who conducted a short service

Preparing for garden produce shows

COLTON Village Produce Guild met in the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Brown, of the Cottage Stores, for their June meeting, Mr. H. Toy presiding. After dealing with business matters out of doors, they adjourned to the lounge for a talk by Mr. J. Burke, headmaster of Weston School and clerk to Weston Parish Council.

"Molly-guising" was his subject and he explained how, in days gone by, these plays were performed in villages and small towns throughout the country, at Christmas, Easter, or All Soul's tide.

Even if called by various names and using other words, there was always the same theme running through the play, he said.

Some members recalled something of this custom at All Souls tide. A vote of thanks to Mr. Burke was proposed by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft.

The guild decided against organising an event to help in the improvement scheme for the Reading Room at present, but to consider later the possiblity of co-operating with other organisations.

Names were requested for entry in the guild's "best kept garden" competition on July 21, and members were reminded of exhibits needed for the Produce Guilds' display at Rodbaston on June 23, an open day.

Mr. A. N. Felton (Chairman of the Parish Council) invited the guild to consider making a donation towards the "best kept garden" competition being arranged by the council. It was decided to "pass the hat round."

Mrs. J. Garwood asked if a letter could be sent from the guild stressing the need for a telephone kiosk at the top of the village.

It was pointed out that people living as far away as Stockwell Heath had to use the one in the centre of the village.

It was decided that the guild should add pressure to the efforts already being made for a further kiosk.

Mr. J. H. Toy (chairman) reminded members that a rose show would form the competition for the next meeting and it was decided to arrange some practice for the next county quiz.

A competition for a spring cabbage was judged by Mr. Burke and points were awarded to: 1 Mrs. I Preston; 2, Mr. T. Preston; 3, Mrs. L. Jackson.

ASCENSIONTIDE SERVICE

Pupils and staff of Colton Church School, accompanied by parents, went by coach to Blithfield Church for a belated Ascensiontide service last week. It was conducted by the Rev. A. S. Towlson (rector). After the service, at the invitation of Nancy, Lady Bagot, the company walked round Blithfield Hall and grounds.

PARISH COUNCIL. — At the annual meeting of Colton Parish Council, Mr. A. Norris Felton (Vice-Chairman for the past two years) was elected as Chairman for the ensuing year, and Mr. Luke Mellor as Vice-Chairman.— Regarding the footpath leading from Forge House Yard

COLTON

W.I.—The [illegible] Women's [illegible] Reading Room. [illegible] presided and welcomed [illegible] ber, Mrs. B. E. Spencer. The [illegible] congratulated Mrs. A. M. Coop[illegible] on her golden wedding. T[illegible] minutes of the May meeting we[illegible] read and confirmed, and arising fr[illegible] these a letter was read from [illegible] telephone manager regarding [illegible] request for a kiosk at the top [illegible] of the village. It was pointed [illegible] that the kiosk in the Pinfold o[illegible] takes about £70 a year, and the[illegible] fore this does not warrant anot[illegible] kiosk for Colton. A letter was re[illegible] from Mrs. C. A. Tooley express[illegible] her appreciation and thanks [illegible] flowers and letters received dur[illegible] her recent stay in hospital. Rega[illegible] ing a letter received from the Vill[illegible] Hall Committee of Managem[illegible] asking if the W.I. would organ[illegible] some effort for the Reading Ro[illegible] improvement fund, it was deci[illegible] to reply that at present this is [illegible] possible, but perhaps later on, [illegible] co-operation with other organ[illegible] tions this could be considered. [illegible] president commented on the [illegible] ference for officers and commi[illegible] members which she and Mrs Rav[illegible] croft had attended in the Boro[illegible] Hall, Stafford. A request from [illegible] Village Produce Guild for the [illegible] of the canning machine to us[illegible] the display at Rodbaston Farm [illegible] stitute open day was granted. [illegible] Preston thanked Mrs. C. M. San[illegible] who has resigned on the enter[illegible] ment committee of the Rea[illegible] Room. Another delegate was a[illegible] for, but as no offer was forthco[illegible] this matter had to be shelved. [illegible] appeal was read for children's b[illegible] to be sent to Kenya. Mrs. B[illegible] said she would be willing to [illegible] these. The president welcomed [illegible] introduced Mr. Barrett, of [illegible] wood School for the partially [illegible] who was accompanied by two [illegible] of the school. Mr. Barrett g[illegible] talk on the work of teachin[illegible] partially deaf. Both pupils [illegible] spoke of their school life. A v[illegible] thanks to Mr. Barrett and his [illegible] was proposed by Mrs. I. B[illegible] who also gave a compreh[illegible] report of her visit as delega[illegible] Colton and Blithfield to the N[illegible] Federation annual general m[illegible] in the Albert Hall, London. T[illegible] to Mrs. Brown were express[illegible] Miss D. M. Jones. Tea ho[illegible] were Mrs. P. B. Best, Mrs. C[illegible] Mrs. B. M Ravenscroft, and[illegible] Rotchell The competition pr[illegible] a box of sweets was award[illegible] Miss Jones and the mystery t[illegible] D. M Atkin.

Colton P.C.C. me

At a meeting of Colton[illegible] chial Church Council [illegible] Village School last wee[illegible] Rector (Rev. A. S. To[illegible] announced that, regardin[illegible] proposed pumping station[illegible] erected on Church Gro[illegible] connection with the se[illegible] scheme, the Lichfield R.D.[illegible] agreed to six of the nine[illegible] put forward by the P.C.[illegible] was moved that Mr. M.[illegible] be asked to appoint a va[illegible] this matter.

Following a request fr[illegible] Best Kept Village Commit[illegible] a representative from the[illegible] Miss D. A. Cooper agreed[illegible] this.

The Rector announce[illegible] Mrs. Alice Cooper, Miss [illegible] Miss D. A. Cooper prop[illegible] donate a stained glass [illegible] in the Baptistry to the m[illegible] of the late Frank [illegible] Cooper, Church Clerk. A[illegible] the window was passed [illegible] and all agreed it was a v[illegible] ful work of Art. It is ho[illegible] have the window in pla[illegible] Harvest Festival season, [illegible] it would be dedicated.

The Rector proposed t

Colton gift of stained-glass window

TIMES 30/6/62

At a meeting of Colton Parochial Church Council, the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, announced that the family of the late Mr. F. W. Cooper, church clerk, proposed to give a stained-glass window for the baptistry, in his memory.

This has been designed by Mr. A. E. Buss, a London architect, who is an axpert in stained-glass. When the design of the proposed window was shown to the members, all were agreed that it was an excellent work of art.

It is hoped that, after the necessary faculty has been granted, there will be time to have the window in place for the harvest festival season, when it will be dedicated.

The rector suggested that it would be fitting to make an appeal for the church grounds scheme in conjunction with this, as Mr. Cooper had devoted so many hours to that work in his last years.

The council agreed to this being done.

There was a long discussion on the need for work to be carried out on the clerk's house before the new clerk and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. A. I. D. Collins, could take up residence. It was decided to proceed with the work.

The rector said he felt that £700 would be available, with a grant from Lichfield Rural Council and the sale of land from which the clerk draws the rents. He did not think the Charity Commissioners would refuse this, provided an endowment fund was created.

The work on the house was expected to cost about £1,000. Members were faced with a difficult decision to make but expressed the view that they could not make any other as the new clerk could not be expected to go into house in its present state.

The rector announced that connection with the prop pumping station which Lich Rural Council are to erect church ground, the rural co had agreed to six of the points which the P.C.C. had forward, and it was decided Mr. M. Exham be asked to ap a valuer.

Miss D. A. Cooper agreed represent the P.C.C. on the Kept Village Committee.

The rector stated that the Fund stood at £57 12s. and it would probably be an increase the £70 estimate for tar spra

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Advertiser

COLTON

Mothers Union.—Colton Mothers Union held their June meeting in the Reading Room when Mr. J L Taylor, enrolling member, welcomed Mrs. N R Torrington, wife of the vicar of Rugeley, who conducted a short service and gave a talk on aspects of Christian family year. Mrs. H A Williscroft thanked Mrs. Torrington. Mrs. Taylor congratulated Mrs. C W Cooper on her recent golden wedding anniversary. Mrs. Taylor urged members to attend the Deanery Festival at St. Augustine's, Rugeley, on July 4. A letter from the village hall committee of management started a long discussion and it was eventually decided to stage a bring and buy stall at the July meeting, and to add to the proceeds whatever is needed from the MU funds to forward a donation of £10 — to the improvement fund of the Reading Room. Mrs. Taylor strongly appealed to members to support the effort in any way possible to make it a success.

Church Council.— A meeting of Colton parochial church council took place in the Village School last week, the rector the Rev. A. S Towlson presiding. From the minutes of the previous meeting, the rector announced that, regarding the proposed pumping station to be built on church ground in connection with the sewerage scheme, Lichfield RDC has agreed to six of the nine points put forward by the PCC. It was moved that Mr M Exham be asked to appoint a valuer in this matter. Regarding the cutting of the grass in the cemetery it was reported that no applications had been received. Following a request from the 'Best Kept' village committee for a representative from the PCC, Miss D A Cooper was appointed. Speaking of the road fund, the rector said the total in hand to date was £57 12s. 2d. He said there would probably be a slight increase on the £70 estimate for the tar spraying work. Arrangements were made in connection with the annual garden party for the church expenses account. The rector announced that Mrs. Alice Cooper, Miss M and Miss D A Cooper, propose to donate a stained glass window in the Baptistry to the memory of the late Frank William Cooper, church clerk This will be specially designed by Mr. A. E. Buss of London, a stained glass window architect, who recently made the journey to Colton. A plan of the window was handed round. It is hoped that after the necessary faculty has been granted to have the window in place for harvest festival season, when it would be dedicated. The rector proposed that it would be fitting to make an appeal for the church grounds scheme in conjuncton with this, Mr. Cooper having given so many hours of his time to this work. The PCC agreed to this proposal. Mr. and Mrs. A I D Collins were asked to leave the meeting while the question of the necessary work to the clerks' house was discussed. It was agreed to start with this work. The rector said he felt £700 would be available with a grant from the RDC and the sale of land from which the clerk draws the rents. The work on the clerk's house was expected to cost between £1,000 and £1,100. Members were indeed faced with a difficult decision to mak he said, but felt they could n

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Sentinel 15/6/62

COLTON

PARISH COUNCIL.—First item on the agenda was the Rydal footpath, which members had inspected the previous Sunday. They found this in a very bad state and a report is to be made to Lichfield Rural District Council that at present no attempt has been made to reinstate this path. It was announced that the handrail on the bridge over the Moreton Brook in the Marsh had been damaged and it was agreed to report this to the County Council pointing out the danger to children. It was decided to see what can be done in the matter of grading and seeding down the ground by the brook side between the bridge and the Rectory Buildings.

PRODUCE GUILD.—Plants set in the border alongside the Reading Room are to be removed to the War Memorial and Oldhams Cottages. This follows a letter from the village hall management committee, who have also asked the guild to consider organising an event for the fund to improve the room. Judges in the guild's best-kept garden competition on July 21st will again be Mr. F. W. Farrar and Mr. R. K. Mowforth. The meeting decided to add pressure to the efforts already being made to acquire a telephone kiosk for the top of the village. A competition for a spring cabbage was judged by Mr. Burke as follows:— 1, Mrs. I. Preston; 2, Mr. T. Preston; 3, Mrs. L. Jackson.

GOLDEN WEDDING.—Mr. and Mrs. Charles William Cooper, of Evas Cottages, 49, High-street, Colton, attained their golden wedding anniversary on Saturday. They were married at St. Andrew's Church, Wolverhampton, and went to live in the cottage where they still reside. Mr. Cooper was born in Colton; Mrs. Cooper at Wolverhampton. The couple have a son, Mr. Reginald Cooper, who is married and resides at Penn, Wolverhampton, and two daughters, Miss Eva Cooper (who works in Wolverhampton, living with her brother and spending week-ends with her parents) and Mrs. Muriel Machin, who lives in Stafford. There are seven grandchildren. For a good many years Mr. Cooper worked at Stokes (Tanners) Ltd., Rugeley; he is a keen gardener. Mr. Cooper is aged 76 and Mrs. Cooper 71. The event was celebrated with a family party on Sunday. Mrs. Cooper is a member of the Mothers' Union, the Village Produce Guild and the Women's Institute.

COLTON PARISH COUNCIL

Colton Parish Council met in the Reading Room on Friday, when all members were present, and the Chairman, Cllr. A. N. Felton, presided.

Members had inspected the Rydal path the previous Sunday, which they found in a very bad state. It was decided a report be made to Lichfield R.D.C. that at present no attempt has been made to reinstate this path.

It was announced that the hand-rail on the bridge over the Moreton Brook in the Marsh had been damaged. It was agreed to report this to the County Council and point out the danger to children.

A vacancy had occurred on the Management Committee of the Reading Room, the People,s Churchwarden, Mr. Maurice Williscroft having resigned owing to various other commitments. Cllr. G. F. Upton agreed to take this place.

Mercury 15/6/62

Colton M.U.

Colton Mothers' Union joined Abbots Bromley and Blithfield members on Tuesday evening last week for their service of Rededication (connected with Christian Family Year) at Abbots Bromley Church.

The impressive service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. C. J. A. Payton, and the address was given by the Rector of Blithfield and Colton, the Rev. A. S. Towlson.

Collections (for the overhaul of Abbots Bromley Church organ) were taken by Mrs. J. L. Taylor, Enrolling Member for Colton branch, and Mrs. N. Vernon, Enrolling Member of Blithfield branch.

Refreshments were provided by the Abbots Bromley members.

TIMES 15/6/62

ATTENTION TO PATH

When Colton Parish Council met on Friday, under the chairmanship of Councillor A. N. Felton, the first item discussed was the Rydal footpath which councillors had inspected on the previous Sunday. They considered that it was in a very bad state.

It was decided to inform Lichfield Rural Council that there had not been any attempt to reinstate the path.

It was reported that the hand rail on the bridge over Moreton Brook, in the Marsh, had been damaged. Because this was a danger to children it was decided that the County Council should be informed.

The grading and seeding of the ground by the brookside, between the bridge and the rectory buildings, was also discussed, and it was decided to see what could be done in this direction. Councillor F. Hardcastle said he would like to see a seat erected under

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COLTON VILLAGE PRODUCE GUILD

Mercury 15/6/62

Colton Village Produce Guild met for their June meeting in the garden of The Cottage Stores by invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Brown, when an enjoyable evening was spent.

The Chairman, Mr. J. H. Toy, presided, and a letter from the management committee asked if the Guild would consider organising some event for the fund to improve the room. It was agreed that at present this does not seem possible, but that later on the Guild would consider co-operation with other organisations in this matter.

Names of those wishing to enter in the Guild's "Best Kept Garden" competition on July 21, were asked for; the judges will again be Mr. F. W. Farrer and Mr. R. K. Mowforth.

Mrs. Joan Garwood raised the telephone kiosk question, and asked could a letter be sent from the Guild regarding the real need for a kiosk at the top of the village. Some members wondered if it was realised that people living at Stockwell Heath had to use the one in the centre of the village. It was decided to add pressure to the efforts already made in this matter.

Mr. Toy welcomed and introduced Mr. John Burke, Headmaster of Weston (Nr. Stafford) school, who gave an interesting talk on "Molly-Guising." Mr. Burke was thanked by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft. The competition for a spring cabbage was judged by Mr. Burke, and points were awarded to: 1, Mrs. I. Preston; 2, Mr. T. Preston; 3, Mrs. L. Jackson.

The Chairman thanked Mr. and Mrs. Brown for their hospitality.

Colton Golden wedding

On Saturday, Mr. and Mrs. Charles William Cooper, of Evas Cottages, 49, High Street, Colton, celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary. They were married at St. Andrew's Church, Wolverhampton, and came to live in the cottage they still live in.

Mr. Cooper was born in Colton and attended the village school. Mrs. Alice Maud Cooper was born at Wolverhampton. The couple have a son Mr. Reginald Cooper, who is married and lives at Penn, Wolverhampton, and two daughters, Miss Eva Cooper, who works in Wolverhampton (living with her brother and spending week-ends with her parents), and Mrs. Muriel Machin, who lives in Stafford. There are seven grand-children. For a good many years, Mr. Cooper worked at Stokes (Tanners) Ltd. Rugeley. He is a keen gardener. Mr. Cooper is 76, and Mrs. Cooper 71. The event was celebrated with a family party on Sunday.

Mrs. Cooper is a member of the Mothers' Union, of the Village Produce Guild and of the Women's Institute.

Colton Outing 7/6/62

COLTON

Parish Council.—Colton parish council met in the Reading Room last week, when all members were present, the chairman, Cllr. A. N. Felton, presiding. First item on the agenda was the Rydal footpath, which members had inspected the previous Sunday. They found this in a very bad state. It was moved a report be made to the Lichfield Rural Council that at present no attempt has been made to reinstate this path. It was announced that the hand rail on the bridge over the Moreon Brook in the Marsh, had been damaged. It was agreed to report this to the County Council, and point out the danger to children. It was decided to see what can be done in the matter of grading and seeding down the ground by the brook side between the bridge and the Rectory buildings. Mr Hardcastle said he would like to see a seat under one of the lime trees, to blend in, and this was agreed to. It was stated that a vacancy had occurred on the management committee of the Reading Room, the People's Church warden, Mr Maurice Williscroft, having resigned owing to other commitments. Councillor G. F. Upton agreed to take this place.

Golden Wedding.—On June 9th Mr and Mrs Charles William Cooper, of Evas Cottages, 49 High Street, Colton, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. They were married at St. Andrews Church, Wolverhampton, and came to live in the cottage they still live in. Mr Cooper was born in Colton, and attended the village school. Mrs Alice Maud Cooper was born at Wolverhampton. The couple have a son, Mr Reginald Cooper who is married and lives at Penn, Wolverhampton, and two daughters, Miss Eva Cooper, who works in Wolverhampton, and Mrs Muriel Machin, who lives in Stafford. There are seven grandchildren. For many years Mr Cooper worked at Stokes (Tanners) Ltd. Rugeley. He is a keen gardener. Mr Cooper is 76 and Mrs. Cooper 71. The event was celebrated with a family party on Sunday. Mrs Cooper is a member of the Mothers' Union, a member of the Village Produce Guild and of the Women's Institute.

Produce Guild.—Colton Village Produce Guild met in the garden of The Cottage Stores, by invitation of Mr and Mrs Jack Brown, last week. The chairman, Mr. J. H. Toy, presided. A letter was read from the village hall management committee, stating they intended to do away with the flower border along the side of the Reading Room, and as the Guild had put the Iris plants there they may care to remove them to some other suitable spot. It was decided to attend to this after the Iris have finished flowering and replant them round the War Memorial and in front of Oldham's Cottages. A further letter from the management committee asked if the guild would consider organising some event for the fund to improve the room. It was agreed that at present this does not seem possible, but that later on the Guild would consider co-operation with other organisations in this matter. Names of those wishing to enter in the Guild's "Best Kept Garden" competition on July 21st, were asked for. The judges will again be Mr F. W. Farrer and Mr R. K. Mowforth. Members were reminded of exhibits being needed for the Produce Guilds display at Rodbaston Farm Institute open day on June 23rd. Mr A. N. Felton asked if the Guild would consider making a donation towards the "Best Kept Garden" competition arranged by the Council. After much discussion during which it was mentioned that a few good guild members did not live in Colton Parish, and that the guilds own competition was [illegible] at a loss, it was decided [illegible] and give

chairman thanked Mr and Mrs. Brown for their hospitality.

Outing.—Last week the pupils of Colton Church School, the staff and a few parents went by coach to Blithfield Church for a late Ascensiontide service, conducted by the Rector, Rev. A. S. Towlson. After the service at the invitation of Nancy Lady Bagot, the party went round the hall and grounds.

Colton Social Evening 2/6/62

A social evening organised by Colton Parochial Church Council, was held in the Village School on Friday, proceeds to be devoted to Tar Spraying work of the Church road. Doorkeepers were the Rector Rev. A. S. Towlson and the Churchwardens. Dancing to record music took place and spot prizes were awarded. A bring and buy stall was staged and refreshments were available. Helping with these and the stall were Mrs. F. W. Cooper and Miss D. A. Cooper, Mrs. E. M. Dunkey, Mrs. H. A. Williscroft, Mrs. G. E. Finnemore, and Mrs. S. Martin.

A competition for chocolates run by Mrs. I. V. Collins was won by Mr. A. I. D. Collins. Main source of 'revenue' was a 'stop watch' competition the winner of which was E. H. Nash of Anslow Burton-on-Trent. MERCURY

Colton P.C.C. hold social evening

TIMES 30/6/62

Colton Parochial Church Council held a social evening in the Church School, Colton, to help pay for the tar spraying of the road. The event was not well patronised but with the addition of an outside contribution (a stop-watch competition) a total of £42 was reached.

The winner of the competition was Mr. E. H. Nash, of Anslow, Burton-on-Trent.

Mesdames F. W. Cooper, E. M. Dunkey, H. A. Williscroft, G. E. Finnemore and S. Martin and Miss D. A. Cooper helped at the bring and buy stall and served refreshments. A competition for chocolates, run by Mrs. I. V. Collins,

Youth Club.—On Friday evening Colton Youth Club organised a dance in the Reading Room for the improvement fund of the room. Doorkeepers were Dennis Hibbs, Mr. Fred Hardcastle and Mr. Reg Martin. The Grasshoppers Band supplied the music. Refreshments were in charge of Mrs. P. M. Buckley and Mrs. F. Hardcastle. Spot prizes were awarded to Miss Janet Jones and Mr. John Foster, Mr and Mrs. Gordon Goring, and Mrs. N. B. A. Martin and Roy Martin. The competition organised by Ruth Ravenscroft was won by Clifford Preston, Geoff Gould and Mary Allerton. Mr. Hardcastle said that credit was due to the youth club for their effort. ADVERTISER

P.C.C.—A social evening organised by the Parochial Church Council was held in the Village School on Friday. Proceeds of this are to be devoted to tar spraying work of the church road. Doorkeepers were the rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, and the churchwardens. Dancing to records took place, and spot prizes were awarded. A bring and buy stall was staged and refreshments were available. Helping were Mrs. F. W. Cooper and Miss D. A. Cooper, Mrs. E. M. Dunkey, Mrs. H. A. Williscroft, Mrs. G. E. Finnemore and Mrs. S. Martin. A competition for chocolates was run by Mrs. I. V. Collins and won by Mr. A. I. D. Collins. The main source of revenue was a "stop watch" competition, the winner being E. H. Nash, of Anslow, Burton-on-Trent. This event was not as well patronised as had been anticipated when arranged at the P.C.C. meeting in April, when it was hoped the effort would cover this necessary tar spraying work. 21/6/62

[illegible] shown on film

TIMES 30/6/62

[illegible]ms of Colton Village Produce [illegible]d activities were shown by Mr. [illegible] Mrs. S. J. Timmins, as part of

Colton Produce Guild 3/7/62

At the July meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild held in the Reading Room, the chairman, Mr. J. H. Toy, presided and welcomed Mr. George Arnold (Chairman of Abbots Bromley Guild) and Mr. Deaville, of Yoxall.

In reply to the Guild's letter, seeking a kiosk at the top end of the village, the Telephone Manager stated this would receive further consideration.

The competition for the evening took the form of a Rose Show; Mr. Arnold and Mr. Deaville acting as judges. Owing to the late season for roses, this was not well supported. In the class for Floribundas one entry only arrived from Mrs. Edith Preston. The Hybrid Teas class was better represented and points were awarded to:— 1, Mrs. E. Preston; 2, Miss Mary Preston; 3rd Mr. W. Preston. The vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. Jask Brown, who had asked if a letter could be sent from the Guild protesting against the spraying of hedge banks and killing the wild flowers.

A friendly "Quiz" was arranged, teams being: Miss J. Brown, Miss Ruth Ravenscroft, Mr. Ernest Myatt and Mrs. F. Baker (33 points); and Mrs. Lily Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. Percy Tabernor and Mrs. M. S. Toy (32 points). The questions had been prepared by Mr. R. K. Mowforth; Mr. Arnold acted as judge; Mr. Toy as question master; and Miss D. M. Jones (hon. secretary) as scorekeeper.

Tea hostesses were Miss Ellen Rotchell, Mrs. M. E. Hibbs and Miss Jones. MERCURY

Colton School activities

Last week was "Open Day" at Colton Village School, when parents and friends were able to see the pupils' work and chat to the staff. They also watched dancing round the Maypole by senior pupils, followed by dancing by pupils from Mrs. Shaw's and Mrs. Toy's (infants) classes.

Mercury 20/7/62

Colton Service

Pupils and staff of Colton school attended a "school leavers" service on Friday conducted by the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson. Mrs. Shaw was the organist and readers were Gwendoline Naomi Ravenscroft, Helen Myatt and Patricia Shipley. Many parents and friends attended. Terence Cooper and Stephen Hibbs were the collectors.

COLTON

PRODUCE GUILD.—At the meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild, a letter was read out from the telephone manager's office stating that further consideration should be given to a request by the Guild asking for a telephone kiosk to be put up at the top end of the village. The meeting was conducted by the chairman, Mr J. H. Toy, who welcomed two visitors, Mr George Arnold, chairman of the Abbots Bromley Guild, and Mr Deaville of Yoxall Nurseries. It was agreed that the guild should look after the hoop-la stall at a barbecue to be organised on Sept. 14th by the village hall management committee. Mr Toy urged members to support the show, which is being held on August 25th. He said that helpers were still needed on a number of stalls and side shows. Several suggestions were also put forward for organising an outing in August. The competition took the form of a rose show, with Mr Arnold and Mr Deaville as judges. There were not many entries, because roses have been late flowering this year. A vote of thanks to the judges was proposed by Mr J. Brown. A quiz was organised. Questions were asked by Mr R. K. Mowforth, with Mr. Arnold as judge. Question master was Mr Toy, and the score-keeper, Miss D. M. Jones. Teams and results were: Mr Brown, Miss Ruth Ravenscroft, Mr Ernest Myatt, and Mrs F. Baker, with 33 points; Mr Lily Jackson, Mr and Mrs Percy Tabernor, and Mrs M. S. Toy, with 32 points. Tea hostesses were Miss Ellen Rotchell, Mrs M. E. Hibbs and Miss Jones.

W.I.—The recent house-to-house collection in Colton, organised by the Women's Institute for the British Empire Cancer Research Campaign brought in £6 6s. The collectors were Mrs Ivy Preston, Mrs B. M. Ravenscroft, Miss D. M. Jones and Mrs P. M. Buckley.

COLTON 6/7/62

MEMORIAL WINDOW.—At a meeting of Colton Parochial Church Council, the Rector (the Rev. A. S. Towlson) announced that Mrs. Alice Cooper and the Misses M. and D. A. Cooper proposed to donate a stained-glass window in the baptistry at Colton Church in memory of the late Mr. Frank William Cooper, the former church clerk. It was hoped that the window, designed by a London artist, would be in place for the harvest festival season. Sentinel

Wild flowers

ADVERTISER 19/7/62

SOME villagers of Colton, near Rugeley, are sending a letter of protest to the County Council, in an attempt to "stop wild flowers in the hedgerows being destroyed by weed-killer".

Urging that the letter be sent, Mr. Jack Brown said a recent meeting of the Village Produce Guild that the spray, used by council workmen for killing roadside weeds, was also killing the flowers.

"It's wrong to use this spray if it kills the flowers" he said afterwards. "We shall soon have none left in the hedgerows. There's a great difference between destroying weeds, and killing off beautiful flowers. The council could easily cut the grass and weeds".

He said that all the other members of the guild, and most of the villagers, supported the letter of protest. "If no action is taken a lot of harm is going to be done by the council".

"Sentimental"

But Mr. B. Oiverson, Uttoxeter area surveyor, has a different point of view "he objected to weeds growing in the hedgerows", he said. "Then as soon as we destroy them, they get sentimental over them, and start calling weeds wild flowers".

He said that because of the short-

round with men to cut them.

"In any case", he added, "the decision is up to the county council".

Sports day, coupled with the fact that it marked the near approach of the summer holiday, had these Colton school-children bubbling over with joy, as seen in their happy

MISSING FROM HER HOME

Reported missing from her home since Tuesday is June Bannister unemployed, of 9, Heathway, Colton. She was last seen by her parents at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, when she left home carrying a small blue suitcase and a natural coloured raincoat.

Described as slim built with blue eyes and blonde shoulder-length hair, she was at the time wearing a multi-coloured skirt and white blouse. She should have kept an appointment at a hospital that day but did not attend.

Police have received reports that she has since been seen in Rugeley at the Horse Fair milk bar and in Bow Street, but up to yesterday (Friday) morning she had not been traced.

Colton W.I. help to save Leonardo cartoon

At the July meeting of Colton W.I., held in the Reading Room, Mrs. I. Preston presiding, business items connected with the forthcoming show were dealt with. Members were reminded that they could obtain schedules from the secretary.

It was agreed that a cake and produce stall could be staged at the fete an dbarbecue being held in September for the Reading Room.

The members decided to send a contribution to the Leonardo appeal to save the "Mother and Child" picture for the nation. The president welcomed Mrs. Shepherd, of Shenstone, who gave an instructive talk on stuffed toy making. She was thanked on the proposition of Mrs. M. Bigham.

Mrs. Shepherd judged the competition for a soft toy and awarded the prize to Mrs. P. M. Buckley. Tea hostesses were Mrs. L. Bett son, Mrs. I. R. Brown and Mrs. D Deacon. The stall was in charge of Mrs. M. L. Waters and the mystery prize went to Mrs. V Pratt.

Colton Church School pupils and staff attended a school-leaver's service at St. Mary's Church on Friday. It was conducted by the rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, and many parents and friends attended.

Mrs. D. R. Shaw played the organ and the lessons were read

In ideal weather conditions on Tuesday, Colton Church School held their sports in the field adjacent to the school

Winners in the various events were: Flat races, seven years-old boys: Michael Preston; girls: Delia Knight; eight years-old boys Roger Bannister; girls: Michele Pimlett; nine years-old boys: Anthony Wright; girls: Melane Logan; 10 years-old boys: Stanley Hawthorne; girls; Judith Norman; 11 years-old boys: Vernon Norman; girls: Pauline Haycock.

Egg and spoon, seven years-old boys: John Norman and Alec Wright; girls: Doreen Atkins. Eight years-old boys: Roger Bannister; girls: Joy Upton. Nine years-old boys: Anthony Wright; girls: Melanie Logan. Ten years-old boys: Stephen Upton; girls: June Sargeant; 11 years-old boys: Vernon Norman; girls: Gwendoline Ravenscroft

Infants' flat races five years-old boys: Christopher Grimley; girls: Karen Upton and Gillian Rowe. Six years-old boys: Billy Smith; girls: Glenis Jones and Elaine Leeke. Bunny-hop, five years-old boys: Christopher Grimley, Alan Bennett, Stephen Bennett; girls: Ann Haynes, Ursual Hall, Glenis Jones. Boys' donkey races: Ian Evans and Vernon Norman, Anthony Wright and Maxwell Cooper. Girls' skipping races: Christine Bennett, Phillipa Upton Catherine Smith, Helen Myatt. June Sargeant. Little visitors' race: Danny Smith. Mothers' egg and spoon race: Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Logan. Fathers' sack race: Mr. G. Bennett. Tug o' war: Mrs. Toy's team Sack race: Patricia Shipley, Gwendoline Ravenscroft.

Refreshments were served by Mrs. H. A. Williscroft, Mrs. D Preston, Mrs. N. Devall, Mrs. P. M. Buckley and Mrs. P. L. Bannister.

Addressing the large number of parents present, Mr. D. E. Waters (headmaster) expressed the pleasure it gave the staff to see such an interest shown in the school.

Colton Mothers' Union

Colton Mothers' Union met for their July meeting in the delightful surroundings of Wharf Cottage, the canal-side home of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Best. A short service was conducted by Mrs. J. L. Taylor, Enrolling Member. Boat trips on the canal were enjoyed. A vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs. E. M. Sargeant to Mr. and Mrs. Best for their hospitality.

A bring and buy stall was staged, proceeds to go to the Improvement Fund of the Reading Room. A competition organised by Mrs. B. M. Raven-

300 M.U. members at Rugeley deanery festival

About 300 members of the Mothers' Union attended a Rugeley deanery festival at St. Augustine's Church on Wednesday. They came from 14 branches and 11 of them brought banners, which were carried in procession round the church. Presiding over the gathering was Mrs. C. J. A. Payton, of Abbots Bromley (deanery presiding member).

The sermon was preached by the Rev. N. R. Torrington, Vicar of Rugeley, who spoke on "Christian marriage and faithfulness," basing his address on the story of Ruth.

Also present were the Rev. H. L. H. Townshend (Rural Dean), and the Rev. C. J. A. Payton, Vicar of Abbots Bromley.

Tea in the Town Hall, prepared by Rugeley branch, followed, for most of the members.

Colton children enjoy outings

Colton schoolchildren have enjoyed two outings recently. On Friday, a party of senior pupils and teachers. Mr D. E. Waters and Mrs. D. R. Shaw, and Mr. M. Willescroft (school manager and people's warden) visited New Brighton and Liverpool Docks. They also went for a short sea trip.

On Tuesday, the infants were taken by their teacher, Mrs. M. S. Toy, to Seven Springs, Cannock Chase. Pony rides were a surprise treat for the children. Mr. J. H. Toy having borrowed a pony from Crabtree Farm.

COLTON

The July meeting of Colton W.I. was held in the Reading Room, Mrs. Ivy Preston, President presiding. It was agreed to send a donation to the appeal to raise money for the painting of The Mother and Child. Regarding a letter from the Committee of Management of the Reading Room about helping with the barbecue and fete in September, it was agreed to stage a cake and produce stall at the fete. Show details were discussed, Mrs. Preston saying schedules could now be obtained from Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft (the show secretary) and that help would be welcome in the refreshment room, also to take duty turns in the infants' room where the handicraft exhibition will be staged. The President welcomed Mrs. Shepherd of Shenstone, who gave an interesting and instructive talk on stuffed toy making. She also

Blooms scarce at Colton Show

THE rose show held by Colton Village Produce Guild at their July meeting was poorly supported, owing to the late rose flowering season. The judges were Mr. G. Arnold (chairman of Abbots Bromley Guild) and Mr. G. Deaville, of Deaville's Nurseries, Yoxall, and they were introduced by Mr. J. H. Toy (chairman).

There was only one entry in the floribunda class and that was from Mrs. E. Preston. The hybrid teas were better represented and the winners were Mrs. E. Preston, Miss Mary Preston and Mr. W. Preston!

Proposing a vote of thanks to the judges, Mr. Jack Brown remarked that the Etching Hill soil must be warmer than Colton's!

It was agreed that the guild should run a hoopla stall at the village hall barbecue on September 14.

Mr. Brown asked the Guild to protest against the spraying of hedge banks as this was killing the wild flowers. It was decided that a letter should be sent to the the department concerned.

Mr. Toy urged members to support the show to be held on August 25

Amusement was caused by a friendly quiz, the questions being arranged by Mr. R. K. Mowforth, of Rodbaston Farm Institute.

The question-master was Mr. Toy, with Mr. Arnold as judge and Miss D. M. Jones secretary) as score keeper.

The teams and results were as follows:—Mr. J. Brown, Miss Ruth Ravenscroft, Mr. E Myatt, Mrs. F. Baker, 33 points; Mrs. L. Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. P Tabernor, Mrs. M. S. Toy, 32 points.

Tea hostesses were Miss E. Rotchell, Mrs. M. E. Hibbs and Miss Jones.

Some of the Colton members attended the annual rally of the county association on Saturday. They visited various Derby parks.

HELP READING ROOM FUND

Colton Mothers' Union members held their July meeting at Wharf Cottage, by invitation of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Best, the afternoon being spent in the delightful surroundings of their home.

Mrs. J. L. Taylor (enrolling member) conducted a short service, and Mr. Best took members for trips in his boat on the canal.

A bring and buy stall, supplemented by a competition, raised £7 12s., which will be made up to £10 from M.U. funds and given to the Colton Reading Room Improvement Fund.

The competition organised by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft was won by Mrs. B. Bettson and Mrs. L. Devall (fresh fruit) and Mrs. B. E. Kendrick (tin of fruit).

The thanks of the members were expressed to Mr. and Mrs. Best by Mrs. E. M. Sargeant.

girl was found in London

A 17 years-old Colton girl, who was reported missing from home last week, appeared before Rugeley magistrates on Thursday and was remanded in custody for a fortnight, pending medical and psychiatric reports. In leaving home she had broken a three year pro-

COLTON WOMAN WINS CUP FOR BEST GARDEN

In spite of a difficult gardening season a high standard had been maintained in the Colton gardens which were inspected on Saturday, said Mr. F. W. Farrer, former chairman of the Staffordshire Association of Village Produce Guilds. He and Mr. R. K. Mowforth, of the Staffordshire Farm Institute, Rodbaston, were judges in the Village Produce Guild's Best Kept Garden Competition.

Mr. P. H. Bannister, formerly of Colton and now living at Little Haywood, came first in the flower section, with Mr. D. W. Garwood, of 1 Manor Way, second, and Mr. J. A. Bent, of Wharf Cottage, Bellbrook, third.

In the vegetable section, Mr. D. Gratton came first, followed by Mr. A. E. Jones and Mr. J. H. Toy, all of Stockwell Heath.

The judges noted that there was a very marked difference in the quality of vegetables at the Stockwell Heath end of the parish.

Later at Weeman's Bridge, Little Haywood, Mr. J. H. Toy (chairman) the judges were escorted round the gardens entered for the competition. Having completed their task, they were entertained by the guild members at Hamley Lodge, home of Mr. and Mrs. Toy.

Mrs. Toy presented the certificates described by Mr. S. J. Timmins and the prize money, to the winners.

Before the judges had thanked Mr. and Mrs. Toy for their hospitality, Mr. Jack Brown proposed a vote of thanks to them.

Mrs. S. E. Jones, one of the Guild's prizewinners, is also the winner of the silver challenge cup provided for competition by Colton Parish Council for the best kept garden in the parish.

This additional competition at Colton was decided upon following the suggestion of the Best Kept Village Competition Committee.

The winner of the certificate is Mr. R. H. Bloor, of Parchfields Farm.

The judges in this competition were Mr. J. W. Jones (Maer) and Mr. R. W. Elliott (Standon).

These awards will probably be presented at Colton Show on August 25.

Some of the prizewinners and Colton Village Produce Guild officials pictured at Hamley Lodge on Saturday evening after the results of the guild's Best Kept Garden Competition had been declared. Seated (left to right) are Mr. F. H. Bannister, Mrs. S. E. Jones and Mr. J. H. Toy.

Produce Guilds appointment

Mr. J. D. Lewis, of Lavender Lodge, Colwich, has been appointed chairman of the Staffordshire Association of Village Produce Guilds in succession to Mr. F. W. Farrer, who agreed to take over as treasurer from Mr. Lewis for a year. The new vice-chairman is Mr. J. W. Jones, of Maer—a former chairman.

Mr. Lewis is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, who holds the post of chief accountant at Universal, Stafford, is a founder-member and present chairman of Colwich Village Produce Guild. He is also a member of the Executive Committee of Staffordshire Rural Community Council and chairman of the Appeals Committee.

Before coming to Colwich, Mr. Lewis had some years' experience in village matters when he was chairman of Great Bridgford Village Hall Committee.

The Rev. A. S. Towlson, rector of Colton, announced the postponment of the installation and dedication of the stained-glass memorial widow, which is being given in memory of the late Mr. F. Cooper (parish clerk) by his family. It was originally intended that the window should be dedicated at Harvest Festival, but the artist has now informed them that it will take longer to complete the window than he first thought. The tentative new date is November 25.

It was decided on Sunday that the appeal for donations towards the cost of completing certain churcyard work (which Mr. Cooper had been doing voluntarily) as a parish memorial to his memory, should be deferred until the unveiling of the window.

...NED BY MRS. ... R. HUTCHINSON

...clear profit was ... at the annual ... party held in the ... grounds, Colton on ... in aid of the ... Expenses Account.

... the Rev. A. S. ... introduced Mrs. H. H. ... fro... Rugeley, who ... the even...

...chinson said that a ... had stood at Colton for ... years and more, and that ... duty of every member ... Parish to maintain and ... it for future generations. ... was presented to Mrs. ... by Gerald Jones, and ... of flowers to Nancy, Lady ... by Lynn Peake.

... of thanks to Mrs. ... was proposed by Mr. ... lay reader and also ... Rector's Warden. He men... ... free will envelope ... arising all those ... interested in the wel... ... to join in ...

Mrs S E Jones.

Pictured in the greenhouse at ... S. ... G...

CHURCH
THROUGH
000 YEARS

was laid on the example set by villagers' fore-
ben Mrs. H. H. Hutchinson opened Colton Fete
garden on Wednesday. She reminded visitors
had been in existence for about a thousand
each successive generation had played its
for its maintenance.

Pictured chatting after the opening ceremony are (left to right): Nancy Lady Bagot, M
Towlson, Mrs. H. H. Hutchinson, the Rev. A. S. Towlson and Mr. D. E. Wate

Mrs. Hutchinson concluded by saying that it was the present duty of the parishioners to carry on this tradition and paid tribute to those who had already contributed a good deal of work to the fete. She was introduced by the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, and was later presented with a bouquet by Glynis Jones. Nancy, Lady Bagot, who was also in attendance at the opening, received flowers from Lynne Peake.

Expressing thanks to Mrs. Hutchinson, Mr. D. E. Walters (headmaster and deputy church warden) hoped that the fete would boost the free-will offering scheme which assisted payment of the church's everyday expenses.

Model aircraft

Apart from the many sideshows, the attractions included a flying display of model aircraft by Rugeley Aeromodelling Club members led by Mr. W. Parsons. Later there was dancing on the lawn to recorded music. Gross takings from the fete amounted to £123.

Sideshows and stalls were run by the following:— Spinning jenny and darts, Mr. W. Yeomans; roll-a-penny, Miss Alberta Hore; schoela, Mrs. G. E. Martin; bowling, Mr. M. Williscroft; skittles, Mr. C. Boycott; coconut shy, Mr. W. Norman; clock golf, Miss D. Jones; hoop-la, Mr. D. E. Waters.

Bran tub, Mrs. V. Collins; home-made cakes, Mesdames J. Toy, I. James and N. Westhorpe; produce and miscellaneous, Mesdames J. Best, G. Mellow, J. Taylor, J. G. Smith and Miss E. Rochell; handkerchiefs (school stall), Mrs. M. Waters; general stall, Mr. and Mrs. J. Brown.

Refreshments were served by Mesdames H. A. Williscroft, M. E. Hibbs, D. Deacon, P. L. Bannister, R. Devall, L. Bettson, M. Cooper, E. Griffin, H. M. Felton, I. Preston, B. M. Ravenscroft, Miss Ruth Ravenscroft and Miss Susan Hibbs.

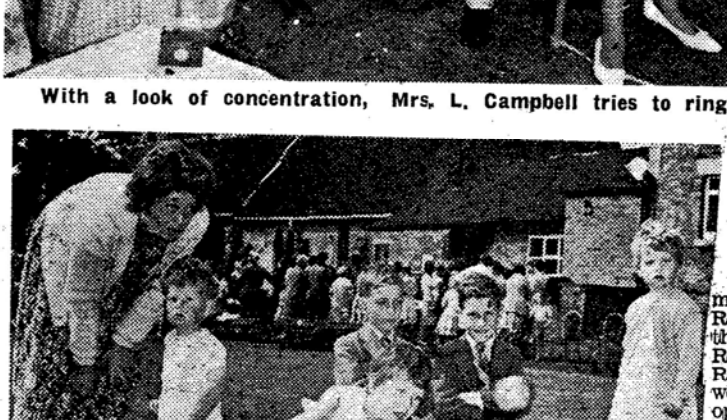
With a look of concentration, Mrs. L. Campbell tries to ring a prize at the hoop-la sta

Colton prepares for show

Times 18/8/62

Colton Village Produce Guild's committee are now busy with final preparations for their annual show, which will be opened by Nancy Lady Bagot on Saturday next.

Those who like competing in the traditional sideshow of bowling for a pig will have added incentive at this Colton show as a bottle of sherry is being offered as a part-of-the-way bowling prize.



Four years-old Joanna Mellor makes a mighty effort at the bowl ing sideshow. Mother looks a little concerned—possibly for th welfare of those in attendance at the other end.

Colton Readin Room always village hall'

27/8/62 Times

At Colton Parish Cou meeting held in the Re Room on Friday, it was annou that the deeds of the Re Room had been returned b Rural Community Council a was observed, contrary to opinion, that the building always been a village hall.

An additional £3 10s. was lected from members to mee cost of prizes awarded in parish council's garden con tion.

Various footpaths and righ way were discussed, and rega the proposed bus shelter, it decided that nothing coul done until a footpath was pl

COLTON

T.D. 21/9/62

M.U.—Colton Mothers' Union had its September meeting in the Reading Room when, in the absence of Mrs. J. L. Taylor, the enrolling member, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft welcomed the Rev. D. Spiller, rector of Armitage, who conducted the service. He gave a talk on an aspect of the Christian Family Year, giving an outline of what the Mothers Union member could do

COLTON

A.D. 22/9/62

MOTHERS UNION—Mothers Union members from Blithfield and Colton, went on an outing last week. This was arranged by the Blithfield Mothers Union. The visitors were welcomed by Miss Knight, the warden and service was held in the Chapel conducted by the Rev. A. N. Barsley, vicar of Chebsey and chaplain to the house. The organist was the Rev. A. S. Towlson, rector of Blithfield and Colton. After tea and a tour of the

Family year

Times 22/9/62

Colton Mothers' Union held their September meeting on Tuesday. In the absence of Mrs. J. L. Taylor (enrolling member), Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft welcomed the Rev. G. D. Spiller, rector of Armitage, who conducted the service and gave a talk on an aspect of Christian Family Year. He outlined what M.U. members could do to help aged people who may be living a lonely life.

Mrs. P. B. Best thanked Mr.

MOTHERS' UNION.

Colton Mothers' Union their September meeting, the Reading Room. In absence of Mrs. J. L. Tay the Enrolling Member, M B. M. Ravenscroft welcon the Rev. D. Spiller (Rector Armitage) who conducted service and gave an impr sive talk on an aspect of Christian Family Year, ing an outline on what

Pictured in Colton churchyard soon after their long-awaited meeting are the Ravenscroft and Gration families. Left to right: Mrs. C. J. Ravenscroft, Barbara Gration, Ruth Ravenscroft, Jonathon Gration, the Rev. John Gration, Gwendoline Ravenscroft, Mrs. J. Gration, Judy Gration and Mr. C. J. Ravenscroft.

Colton visit was missionary's life-long ambition

TIMES 25/8/62

FULFILLING a life-long ambition was an American who visited Colton at the week-end. He was the Rev. John Gration, and before his mother, then Miss Margaret Eva Upton, emigrated to America, she lived at High House, Colton. "I have heard so much about the village since I was very young that I have really been looking forward to seeing the place," Mr. Gration told the "Times."

As he rambled round Colton's ancient Parish Church of St. Mary's, Mr. Gration explained that his long-awaited visit to this country was via Palestine and the African Congo, in which republic he has been a missionary for the past nine years. Now on a year's furlough, he returned to his native New Jersey with his wife and family on Tuesday after spending two weeks in this country.

During his stay he visited an uncle in Sevenoaks, Kent, also a relation who is a rector of a village near Mansfield, Notts. He arrived in Colton on Friday and was greeted by two "long-lost" cousins, Mr. C. J. Ravenscroft, of 65 High Street, and Mr. A. E. Upton, of Chase View.

Arrangements were made by the two cousins well ahead of Mr. Gration's visit, so that he could meet his mother's friends and relatives, but unfortunately one uncle died just a week before the arrival of the nephew whom he had never seen.

Mr Gration's wife has also devoted much of her time in the Congo to the work of the African Inland Mission. She teaches African pastors, in their own tongue, at the Bible Institute run by the Mission.

As for the children, Jonathon Scott 11, Barbara (7) and five-year-old Judy, they feel quite at home in their equatorial jungle surroundings. "I reckon they all speak Swahili better than English," joked their father.

FROM the Congo to Colton came American missionaries, Mr. John Gration and his wife, Dorothy, on Friday.

With their three children—Scotty, aged 11, Barbara, seven, and five-year-old Judy they were visiting relatives, including Mr Gration's cousins, **Mr Cecil Ravenscroft**, of Bank Top, and **Mr Alf Ravenscroft**, of Chase View.

Said Mr Gration, sun-tanned after more than four years in the Congo: "We had to evacuate twice during the recent trouble, once to Kenya. On one occasion we were arrested by Congolese soldiers".

The family arrived for their first visit to England on August 13. They have stayed with relatives at Sevenoaks, Kent and Nottingham.

Mr Gration's mother was born in Colton and his father was Nottingham born.

Both Mr and Mrs Gration studied at Chicago. In Africa, the New Jersey couple taught African pastors and evangelists. On the way to England they travelled through Egypt, Greece, the Holy Land and Europe.

Mr and Mrs Gration stayed in Colton until Monday. They left for America yesterday. The family were thrilled with England. "The countryside is beautiful and everything is so neat. The gardens are charming", said Mr Gration. A DIFFER

Crowded visit

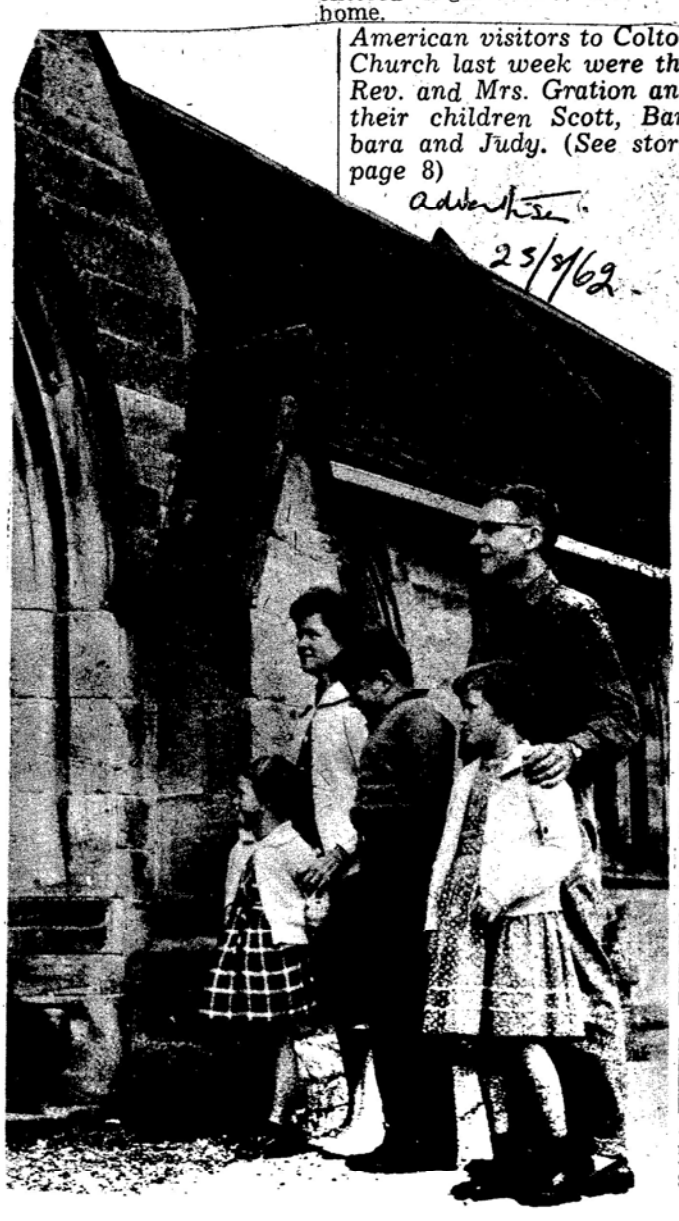
Entertaining these American cousins of ours can be something of a strain at times, as Mr. Cecil Ravenscroft, of 45, High Street, Colton, will readily agree. He is just relaxing after a whirlwind week-end of entertaining a New Jersey relative, the Rev. John Gration, but he feels it was well worth it.

Mr. Gration, who works as a missionary in the Congo, arrived in Colton with his family on Friday and, of course, not only wanted a thorough tour of his mother's birthplace but also wished to meet all her scattered relations in the 50 available hours.

The tour of the village commenced at St. Mary's Church, where he met the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, then Mr. Gration was taken to see friends and relations of his mother. After tea there was a trip to Hednesford to visit an aunt and cousins, and the following morning he met his only remaining uncle in Birmingham.

In the afternoon, Mr. Gration and his family were delighted to exchange a few words with Nancy Lady Bagot as they did the rounds of Blithfield Hall and Church. Mr. Gration's father was a student gardener at Blithfield Hall before the First World War.

A highlight of his Colton explorations was visiting two cottages built by his grandfather, the late Mr. John Upton, one of which is named after Mr. Gration's mother—"Margaret Eva Cottage." He also entered High House, her old home.



American visitors to Colton Church last week were the Rev. and Mrs. Gration and their children Scott, Barbara and Judy. *(See story page 8)*

25/8/62

COLTON VILLAGE PRODUCE GUILD & WOMEN'S INSPITUTE

ANNUAL SHOW

IN THE SCHOOL ON AUGUST 25TH, 1962

her life

SUNDAY MERCURY, August 26, 1962.

by PAULINE PETERS

PEACOCKS strut about the lawns and the sun seems to crumble the sandstone of the turreted old hall. For a moment you are in the past.

Then you turn a corner and you bump head-on into a switchback in time. A jukebox in the funfair protests eternal love, a coach-load of trippers hang around the front door, and there are notices about helicopter rides.

This is Blithfield Hall, a house of strange contrasts, which has matured for 800 years in the Staffordshire countryside.

Contrasts

Nancy Lady Bagot loves it. Understandably—for she is herself a woman of contrasts. Calm, reserved, almost remote, yet the major events of her life have attracted a wave of curiosity.

First, her marriage. Her husband, the sixth Baron Bagot, died last year at the age of 88, leaving her a widow at 42. She was 18 when she met him 24 years ago.

She was born Nancy Constantine Spicer and brought up in Australia. As soon as she left school she made her first visit to England with her mother and sister.

"One day aboard ship we were having coffee in the lounge and Lord Bagot came across and asked if we minded if he sat at our table," she recalls.

He must have been 60, but it was a decisive moment in her life. Later he told her he had already marked her out the minute he first saw her walking on deck.

His first wife had died within the past year. At that time he did not have the glamour of a title to enhance his prospects as a son-in-law. His father had been a parson—an offshoot of the aristocratic Bagot family.

Her parents were vehemently against the match. For two and a half years they withheld their permission. Finally they realised that nothing would shake her, so a few months before her 21st birthday they gave in.

"Our age difference never troubled me all the time we were married," says Lady Bagot. "No, at first I didn't think there was anything particularly marvellous about him, but he was such good fun.

"Of course, I know people said things. But I have never concerned myself with what people say about me.

"We were very happily married. He was never really old, you know. I didn't have to nurse him or anything like that. His death was very sudden. He was taken to hospital and he died a few weeks later."

Pride

She shows you with pride the portrait painted of him a few years before his death. Robust, white-haired, he stands in front of Blithfield.

"He was always active right to the end.

"All I ask for my daughter is a happy marriage. It means so much."

She was referring affectionately to the baby girl they adopted a few months before Lord Bagot died.

This move caused another sensation. "Yes, I disliked intensely the curiosity it aroused."

For many weeks they were besieged with inquiries.

"I determined to say

Lord Bagot does not affect her ownership of the hall. But she recalls nostalgically her early visits to the old mansion which her husband inherited when his cousin died in 1945.

"We came to look at our inheritance and we were horrified," she says now. "It hadn't been lived in for years.

adapted modern hangings and furniture.

All the time she was drawing on the two years she had spent at a domestic science college. "The training was invaluable," she says.

The house has about 60 rooms and is not round a quadrangle. Three sides are open to the public, the

occasionally to see friends to go to ballet or a concert and she enjoys wandering round art galleries.

Her life is busy, [illegible] tion to coping with [illegible] and grounds—which, [illegible] tally, have had [illegible] already this year—she [illegible] an active interest in [illegible] movement. There [illegible]

Pride

She shows you with pride the portrait painted of him a few years before his death. Robust, white-haired, he stands in front of Blithfield.

"He was always active right to the end.

"All I ask for my daughter is a happy marriage. It means so much."

She was referring affectionately to the baby girl they adopted a few months before Lord Bagot died.

This move caused another sensation. "Yes, I disliked intensely the curiosity it aroused."

For many weeks they were besieged with inquiries.

"I determined to say nothing until I was ready. I had decided when I would talk about it, and I saw no reason to change my decision."

They named the baby Cara, an adaptation of Lord Bagot's Christian name, Caryl.

She is 21 months old now, slightly chubby and auburn-haired.

"She does not look like me, of course. For one thing, our colouring is different. I am not sure whether or not her character is forming like mine, though children do absorb a great deal from the adults around them.

"She has a way of looking at strangers, quite silently summing them up before she is prepared to be friendly.

"She is beginning to talk now. She is always looking out of the window and saying 'rain' or 'water.'

Responsibility

"I thought a great deal before we adopted her. Now I only wish we had done it sooner. I wouldn't consider adopting another child at the moment. I have too much responsibility.

She bought Blithfield from her husband in 1959 for £12,000. The recent news that the 2,300-acre estate is to be sold by the present

Lord Bagot does not affect her ownership of the hall. But she recalls nostalgically her early visits to the old mansion which her husband inherited when his cousin died in 1945.

"We came to look at our inheritance and we were horrified," she says now. "It hadn't been lived in for years. It was practically falling down. There seemed absolutely no chance of our ever living here."

So they made a move which Lady Bagot regrets to this day. They sold most of the valuable furniture, *objets d'art*, and paintings.

Big task

The following year grants became available. The financial position eased. And they took on the enormous task of reviving the hall and its grounds.

The years that followed were to be the happiest of her life. "It was tremendously hard work. There was so very much to do. But I have always been extremely interested in decor. The work gave me a great deal of satisfaction."

And these were, of course, the first years of peace. Throughout the war they had lived in London and she had been absorbed in Red Cross work.

Now she was busy burrowing among old pictures and records in an attempt to reconstruct the original Blithfield. For one room she instructed a London firm to make her a special wallpaper. For others she searched among antique shops and adapted modern hangings and furniture.

All the time she was drawing on the two years she had spent at a domestic science college. "The training was invaluable," she says.

The house has about 60 rooms and is set round a quadrangle. Three sides are open to the public; the fourth side, with six rooms, three bathrooms and a kitchen, is her private apartment.

Throughout the centuries various Bagots have made their mark on the place so now there are samples of nearly every important style, including Victorian, Regency, and even Gothic.

The Gothic part is the great hall, a vast, elaborately-plastered room where Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother had lunch in 1953.

Way back when Queen Elizabeth I was invited to Blithfield a new drawing-room was built specially for her. But when the Queen Mother came, Lady Bagot wasn't even nervous. "I was quite sure she would be extremely nice—and she was, of course."

Restoration

A Derby artist and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Barklands, have helped with the restoration work. They painted the murals in the unusual toy gallery and they made *papier-mache* models so that Coronation robes could be exhibited.

"I never considered leaving here when my husband died," she says.

In fact, she has now sold [illegible] in London though [illegible] to town occasionally to see friends, to go to ballet or a concert and she enjoys wandering round art galleries.

Her life is busy. In addition to coping with the house and grounds—which, incidentally, have had 33,000 visitors already this year—she takes an active interest in various movements. There is the Church of England Children's Society, the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, the Council for the Preservation of Rural England, the local Women's Institute and Mothers' Union, and she is president of the North Staffordshire RSPCA.

"If I could choose I would live very quietly," she says. "I would live in a world where nobody was curious about anything I did.

"This curiosity does not upset me. I do not get upset.

"When you are in my position you automatically learn to keep something back all the time."

PRODUCE GUILD. — At the September meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild held in the Reading Room, the chairman, Mr. J. H. Toy, presided and welcomed Mr. Leslie Devall as a new member. The show treasurer, Mrs. Ivy Preston, presented the financial statement and Mr. J. F. Peet, the guild representative on the entertainment committee of the Reading Room, was asked for his report on the barbecue and fete. Speaker was Mr. A. Muntzer of a brewery, who gave a talk on the making of beer. He was thanked by Miss Mary Preston. A competition for a Victoria sandwich was organised by Mrs. B. M. and Gwendoline Ravenscroft and won by Mrs. M. S. Hibbs. Members were reminded that at the October meeting Mr. Donald Nutt would put on two plays. It was agreed to invite old-age pensioners

Colton women share prizes at show

NANCY LADY BAGOT, opening Colton Village Produce Guild's show on Saturday, commented that "A love of gardening is one of the more admirable traits in our way of life today and, what is more, it gives pleasure to others." She thought the Guild had succeeded in maintaining its high reputation.

From what I have seen of the exhibits they do you great credit," said Lady Bagot. She felt that [illegible] produce guilds and women's institutes played an important part in the lives of many country people. With enthusiasm, they encouraged the use and re-discovery of traditional country methods.

She was delighted to see that Colton had tied for a first place in the Best Kept Village Competition and the efforts of members of these organisations had been [illegible] rewarded. She contended that we had "the best gardening climate in the world" although there was every reason to grumble about recent weather.

In all her travels she had not seen any more lovely gardens than those in England. Not only the large ones but the small cottage gardens were justifiably renowned.

In conclusion, Lady Bagot thanked the organisers for their hard work saying: "I hope they will derive as much pleasure from their efforts as we shall from viewing them."

Cup winner

She then presented the horticultural challenge cup to Mr. Peter Preston winner for the second year in succession, and the Ladies' Cup to Mrs. Ivy Preston, and was, herself presented with a bouquet by her grandchild Susan Preston.

Mrs. I. Preston, on behalf of the Guild and Colton W.I., thanked Lady Bagot and Mr. J. H. Toy expressed gratitude to the judges. "Competition has been very keen and they have had a difficult task," she said. He also paid tribute to the "back room boys", both men and women who had helped behind the scenes.

In addition to the colourful display of flowers, fruit, vegetables and produce all of which was of a high standard there was an exhibition of hand crafts, staged by Colton W.I. Institute.

The judges were—Horticulture, Mr. W. E. [illegible] of Standon Hostel Gardens and Mr. J. W. Jones, Mavesyn Ridware. Mr. A. J. [illegible] of Admaston, and Mr. J. [illegible] of Manchester; cookery, Mrs. M. Davies of the Midlands Electricity Board; handicraft, Mrs. E. [illegible] of Newton; wine, Mrs. P. Smith of Abbots Bromley.

The show committee was as follows: Mr. J. H. Toy (chairman), Mrs. I. Preston (treasurer), Mrs. M. Richards (secretary), Miss D. Jones and Messrs G. Atkin, A. Preston, D. Garwood, W. Preston and E. Sargent.

Side attractions at the show included a treasure hunt and competitions for adults and children, and refreshments were served by Mesdames D. Preston, H. Baker, L. Jackson, E. Atkin, M. Bennett, M. Hibbs and M. N. Bennett.

Awards

[illegible]: 1, Mrs. S. E. Jones; [illegible]: 1, Mrs. M. G. Bennett; [illegible]: 1, T. Preston; 2, [illegible]; 3, P. Preston. Tomatoes: 1, Mrs. S. E. Jones; 2, Mrs. M. G. Bennett; 3, T. Preston. Cauliflower: 1 and 2, P. Preston; 3, Mrs. Baker. Lettuce: 1 and 3, Mrs. Baker; 2, Mrs. Bennett. Cabbage: 1, G. Atkin; 2, Mrs. Jones; 3, P. Preston. Marrow: 1 and 3, Mrs. Baker; 2, Mrs. Jones. Collection of vegetables: 1, Mrs. Baker; 2, P. Preston; 3, Mrs. Jones.

Apples (dessert): 1, Mrs. Jones; 2, Mrs. Baker; 3, J. Toy. Apples (cooking): 1, 2 and 3, J. Brown. Pears: 1 and 2, J. Brown; 3, J. Toy. Plums: 1 and 2, T. Preston.

Gladioli: 1, P. Preston; 2, M. Garwood; 3, P. Tabernor. Dahlias (decorative): 1, Mrs. Baker; 2, Mrs. Poynton; 3, Mrs. E. Preston. Dahlias (cactus): 1, P. Preston; 2, T. Preston; 3, Mrs. Poynton. Mixed annuals: 1, Mrs. I. Preston; 2, T. Preston; 3, Mrs. M. S. Toy.

Sweet peas: 1, Mrs. Jones; 2 and 3, P. Preston. Roses: 1 and 3, P. Preston; 2, Mrs. E. Preston. Carnations: 1 and 3, Mrs. Baker; 2, T. Preston. Pansies or violas: 1 and 3, P. Preston; 2, Mrs. Baker. House plant (in flower): 1 and 2, M. Garwood; 3, Mrs. C. M. Saunders.

House plant (in foliage): 1, Mrs. E. Preston; 2, Susan Preston; 3, Mrs. N. Westhorpe. Floral arrangement: 1, Mrs. Poynton; 2, Mrs. M. S. Toy; 3, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft.

Bottled fruit (raspberries): 1, Mrs. P. Tabernor; 2, Mrs. Baker; 3, Mrs. I. Preston. Rhubarb jam: 1, Mrs. I. Preston; 2, Mrs. C. M. Sanders; 3, Miss D. M. Jones. Orange marmalade: 1, Miss Jones; 2, Mrs. I. Preston. Honey: 1 and 3, Miss Jones. Piccalilli: 1, Mrs. Preston.

Tomato sauce: 1, Mrs. I. Preston; 2, Mrs. Toy. Salad cream: 1, Mrs. I. Preston; 2, Susan Preston; 3, Mary Preston. Candies: 1, Mrs. E. Preston; 2, Mrs. I. Preston; 3, Susan Preston. Shortbread: 1, Mrs. Toy; 2, Miss Jones; 3, Ruth Ravenscroft. Victoria sandwich: 1 and 2, Mrs. I Preston; 3, Mrs. E. M. Sargent.

Dundee cake: 1, Mrs. I. Preston; 2, Ruth Ravenscroft; 3, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft. Fancy cakes: 1, Mary Preston; 2, Susan Preston; 3, Mrs. E. Preston. Bun loaf: 1, Susan Preston; 2, Mrs. E. Preston; 3, Mrs. I. Preston. Savoury flan: 1, Mrs. Toy; 2, Mrs. E. Preston; 3, Susan Preston.

Wine: 1 and 3, Mrs. E. Preston; 2, Mary Preston. Knitted waistcoat: 1, Mrs. I. Preston; 2, Mrs. Toy. Thrift article: 1, Mrs. I. Preston; 2, Mrs. Ravenscroft; 3, Susan Preston.

Lampshade: 1, Mrs. Sanders; 2, Miss Jones; 3, Mrs. E. Preston. White eggs: 1, Mrs. E. Preston; 2 and 3, Mrs. I. Preston. Brown eggs: 1 and 2, Mrs. E. Preston; 3, Mrs. E. M. Sargent.

Children's classes—Wild flowers: (equal) 1, Gwendoline Ravenscroft and Lyn Sanders. Wild flowers (open class): 1, Pamela Jones. Picture of vase of flowers (age 8-15): 1, Marilyn Preston; 2, Gwendoline Ravenscroft. Picture (open class): 1, Ian Evans; 2, John McGill.

Nancy Lady Bogat picture above with some of the judges and officials at the opening ceremony. Left to right: Mr. and Mrs. T. Preston, Mr. J. H. Toy, Nancy Lady Bagot, Mr. A. J. Smith, Mrs. J. H. Toy, Mr. J. Cooke, Mrs. A. J. Smith and Mr. G. E. Atkin.

Death of Colton's Mr. E. S. Blore

MERCURY 7/9/62

A well known local personality, Mr. Elijah Septimus Blore died at his home, Colton Cottage, High Street, at the age of 79. Mr. Blore had lead a very active public life, having long associations with the Parish Council being appointed a member in 1913, and in 1919 became Chairman, which office he held for 17 years.

Mr. Blore went to Colton Hall Farm with his parents Mr. and Mrs. Simon Blore soon after he was born and continued to farm there after the deaths of his parents, till 1938 when he moved to Melton Mowbray.

On his return to Colton he again was elected on the Parish Council, and until the past year or two an active part in the life of Colton St. Mary's Church.

Mr. Blore leaves a wife, one son who is in New Zealand, and four daughters. The funeral took place at Mark Eaton Crematorium, and the Choral Service was conducted by the Rev. C. J. A.

COLTON

MERCURY 21/9/62

The September meeting of Colton W.I. was held in the Reading Room, where Mrs. I. Preston (President) welcomed a visitor to the meeting, Mrs. Barker, from Yorkshire. Mrs. C. M. Sanders agreed to be delegate at the Autumn Council at Stafford, with Mrs. June Meddings as visitor. The resolutions were considered, and the delegate instructed as to voting. Mrs. N. Jones asked members to support a coffee morning to be organised by Slitting Mill W.I. in support of the "Freedom from Hunger Campaign." A letter from Mrs. E. Barton, judge in the Handicraft section at the recent show, urging members to put more entries in this section of the show, was read and ideas asked for. Mrs. Preston, who is show treasurer this year, gave the financial statement, and extended thanks to the rest of the show committee for their loyal support. In return Mrs. Preston was congratulated on winning the Challenge Cup. As the speaker was unable to attend, a social time was arranged by Mrs. Jones. Writing a

TIMES

join M.U. outing

15/9/62

In spite of very wet weather a pleasant afternoon's outing to Shallowford House, the diocesan retreat house, was enjoyed on Tuesday by Mothers' Union members from Blithfield and Colton.

The visitors were welcomed by Miss Knight, the warden, and after tea were shown round the house. In the chapel a service was conducted by the Rev. A. N. Barsley, vicar of Chebsey and chaplain to the house. The Rev. A. S. Towlson played the organ and Mrs. N. Vernon and Mrs. J. L. Taylor took the collections.

A vote of thanks was accorded to Miss Knight by Mrs. Vernon

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Council

MR. E. S. BLORE

A wellknown Colton personality, Mr. Elija Septimus Blore, died a his home, Colton Cottag High-street, at the age of 7

Mr. Blore had led a very active public life, having lons association with the Parish Council being appointed a member in 1913. In 1919 h became Chairman, and held the office for 17 years.

Mr. Blore went to Colto Hall Farm with his parents Mr. and Mrs. Simon Blore soon after he was born and later he continued to farm after his parents died. He moved to Melton Mowbray in 1938.

On his return to Colton, h again was elected on th Parish Council, and, until the past year or two, took a active part in the life o Colton St. Mary's Church.

Mr. Blore leaves a wife, on son, who is in New Zealand and four daughters.

The funeral took place a Mark Eaton Crematorium and the service was conducte by the Rev. C. J. A. Payto (Vicar of Abbots Bromley).

Family mourners were Mr. an Mrs. D. M. Foot, Mr. and Mrs F. Constable, Mr. and Mrs. S Fairburn, daughters and son-in law; Miss M. M. Blor daughter; Mr. S. C. Blo

...ADY BAGOT O... VILLAGE PRO... MERCURY SHO...

IN opening Colton Village P... on Saturday, Nancy Lady ... standard of exhibits and decl... she had not seen any gard... England.

After thanking the organisers for their hard work in staging the show, Lady Bagot presented the horticultural challenge cup to Mr. Peter Preston, winner for the second successive year, and the ladies' cup to Mrs. Ivy Preston.

A bouquet was presented to Lady Bagot by 15-years-old Susan Preston, and a vote of thanks was accorded to her by Mrs. Preston. Mr. J. H. Toy expressed gratitude to the judges.

Besides the colourful display of flowers, fruit and vegetables there was an exhibition of handicrafts by Colton Women's Institute. Judges were:— Horticulture: Messrs. R. W. Elliott and J. W. Jones; Agriculture: Messrs. A. J. Smith and J. H. Cooke; Cookery: Mrs. M. Dando; Handicraft: Mrs. E. Barton; Wine: Mrs. P. Salter.

Other attractions at the show included hoop-la, treasure hunt, and bowling for a pig, and refreshments were served by Mesdames D. Deacon, H. Baker, L. Jackson, E. Atkin, M. Bennett, M. Hibbs and Miss N. Rotchell.

Results were:—

Potatoes (white): 1, Mrs. S. E. Jones; 2, T. Preston; 3, Mrs. M. G. Bennett. Potatoes (coloured): 1 T. Preston; 2, Mrs. J. Poynton; 3, P. Preston. Tomatoes: 1, Mrs. S. E. Jones; 2 & 3, Mrs. H. Baker. Onions (from seed): 1, 2 & 3, P. Preston. Onions (from sets): 1, Mrs. H. Baker; 2 & 3, P. Preston.

Shallots: 1, 2 & 3, P. Preston. Beet: 1, T. Preston; 2, Mrs. S. E. Jones; 3, P. Preston. Runner beans: 1, Mrs. Jones; 2, Mrs. Baker; 3, P. Preston. Peas: 1, P. Preston; 2, Mrs. Jones; 3, J. Toy. Carrots: 1, Mrs. Bennett; 2, Mrs. Jones; 3, P. Preston. Parsnips: 1, Mrs. Baker; 2 & 3, P. Preston.

Cauliflower: 1 & 2, P. Preston; 3, Mrs. Baker. Lettuce: 1 & 3, Mrs. Baker; 2, Mrs. Bennett. Cabbage: 1, G. Atkin; 2, Mrs. Jones; 3, P. Preston. Marrow:

Carnations: 1 & 3, 2, T. Preston. Pansies or violas: 1 & 3, P. Preston; 2, Mrs. Baker. House Plant (in flower): 1 & 2, M. Garwood; 3, Mrs. C. M. Sanders.

House Plant (in foliage): 1 Mrs. E. Preston; 2, Susan Preston; 3, Mrs. N. Westhorpe. Flora arrangement: 1, Mrs. Poynton; 2 Mrs. M. S. Toy; 3, Mrs. B. M Ravenscroft.

Bottled fruit (raspberries): 1 Mrs. P. Tabnernor; 2, Mrs. Baker Mrs. I. Preston. Rhubarb jam: 1, Mrs. I. Preston; 2, Mrs C. M. Sanders; 3, Miss D. M Jones. Orange marmalade: 1 Miss Jones; 2, Mrs. I. Preston Honey: 1 & 3, Miss Jones. Picca lilli: 1, Mrs. I. Preston.

Tomato Sauce: 1, Mrs. I. Preston; 2, Mrs. Toy. Salad Cream 1, Mrs. I. Preston; 2, Susan Preston; 3, Mary Preston.

Candies: 1, Mrs. E. Preston; 2 Mrs. I. Preston; 3, Susan Preston Shortbread: 1, Mrs. Toy; 2, Miss Jones; 3, Ruth Ravenscroft Victoria Sandwich: 1 & 2, Mrs I. Preston; 3, Mrs. E. M. Sargent.

Dundee Cake: 1, Mrs. I. Preston; 2, Ruth Ravenscroft; 3, Mr B. M. Ravenscroft. Fancy Cakes 1 Mary Preston; 2, Susan Preston; 3, Mrs. E. Preston. Bu loaf: 1, Susan Preston; 2, Mrs. Preston; 3, Mrs. I. Preston Savoury flan: 1, Mrs. Toy; 2, Mrs E. Preston; 3, Susan Preston.

Wine: 1 & 3, Mrs. E. Preston 2, Mary Preston. Knitted waist coat: 1, Mrs. I. Preston; 2, Mrs Toy. Thrift article: 1, Mrs. Preston; 2, Mrs. Ravenscroft; 3 Susan Preston. Lampshade: 1 Mrs. Sanders; 2, Miss Jones; 3 Mrs. E. Preston. White Eggs 1, Mrs. E. Preston; 2 & 3, Mrs. Preston. Brown eggs: 1 & 2 Mrs. E. Preston; 3, Mrs. E. M Sargent.

Children's Classes — Wild flowers: equal 1, Gwendoline Ravenscroft and Lyn Sanders. Wil flowers (open class): 1, Pamel Jones. Picture of vase of flower (age 8—15): 1, Marilyn Preston 2, Gwendoline Ravenscroft. Pi

29/9/62 TIMES

COLTON M.U.

Mercury 21/9/62

In spite of wet weather, a pleasant afternoon was enjoyed by Mothers' Union members from Blithfield and Colton, when an outing took place to Shallowford House, the Diocesan Retreat House. This was arranged by the Blithfield M.U.

The visitors were welcomed by Miss Knight, the Warden. A service was held in the Chapel conducted by the Rev. A. N. Barsley Vicar of Chebsey and Chaplain to the House. The organist was the Rev. A. S. Towlson, Rector of Blithfield and Colton, and collections were taken by Mrs. N. Vernon and Mrs. J. L. Taylor.

After tea and a tour of the house, a vote of thanks was accorded to Miss Knight by the Blithfield Enrolling Member Mrs. Vernon.

Mrs. Taylor Enrolling Member for Colton, thanked Mrs. Vernon and Mrs. M. Cooper for making the arrangements, and inviting Colton to join them.

COLTON

Mercury 13/9/62

FUNERAL.—The funeral took place at Mark Eaton Crematorium recently, of Mr. Elijah Septimus Blore, who died at his home, Colton Cottage, High Street, aged 79. Mr. Blore had lead a very active public life. He had long associations with the parish council, being made a member in 1913. In 1919 he became chairman, an office he held for 17 years. Mr. Blore went to Colton Hall Farm, with his parents Mr. and Mrs. Simon Blore, soon after he was born. He continued to farm there after the deaths of his parents, until 1938 when he moved to Melton Mowbray. On his return to Colton he was again elected on the parish council, and until the past year or two took an active part in the life of St. Mary's Church. Mr. Blore leaves a wife, one son who is in New Zealand, and four daughters. The funeral service was conducted by the Rev. C. J. A. Payton, vicar of Abbots Bromley. Mourners were: Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Foot, Mr. and Mrs. F. Constable, Mr. and Mrs. S. Fairburn, daughters and sons-in-law; Miss M. M. Blore, daughter; Mr. S. C. Blore, brother; Mr. Simon Blore, cousin, also representing Mr. Charles Blore, Uttoxeter; Mrs. Reeves, niece, also representing Mr. S. M. Blore, nephew; Mr. Charles Blore, Mr. Leslie Blore and Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Blore, nephews, Nottinghamshire; Miss B. M. Radford, sister-in-law; Mr. C. H. A. Plant; Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Evans; Mrs. A. Carthy, also representing Mr. and Mrs. A. Done; Mrs. R. Houldcroft; Mr. and Mrs. F. Taylor

PRODUCE GUILD

At the September meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild held in the Reading Room, the Chairman (Mr. J. H. Toy) presided and welcomed Mr. Leslie Devall as a new member. The Chairman also extended thanks to the show committee and to all who helped in so many ways, with special reference to the work of the show secretary, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft. The speaker for the evening was Mr. A. Muntzer, of Davenports Brewery, who gave an enlightening talk on the brewing of beer, and answered questions. A warm vote of thanks to Mr. Muntzer was proposed by Miss Mary Preston.

A competition for a Victoria sandwich was organised by Mrs. B. M. and Gwendoline Ravenscroft, and this was won by Mrs.

hears talk on beer

Mercury 14/9/62

At the September meeting of the Colton Village Produce Guild held in the Reading Room, the Chairman (Mr. J. H. Toy) welcomed Mr. Leslie Devall as a new member. He also extended thanks to the show committee and to all who helped in so many ways, and made special reference to the time and trouble the show secretary Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft had put into making it a success.

In reply the secretary said she had received wonderful co-operation from the rest of the committee and felt they had all worked well together.

The chairman reminded members that the guild had promised to organise the Hoopla stall at the forthcoming barbecue and fete, for which more helpers were needed.

It was agreed to again hold a harvest supper at a date to be fixed. Members were reminded to order their bulbs from the County in connection with the bulb show in February.

Mr. P. Tabernor announced a coffee evening at Colwich on September 21.

The speaker for the evening was Mr. A. Muntzer, of Davenports Brewery, who gave a most enlightening and interesting talk on the making of beer, and answered questions. A warm vote of thanks to Mr. Muntzer was proposed by Miss Mary Preston.

TIMES 15/9/62

AT the September meeting o... Colton Village Produc... Guild an enlightening and in... teresting talk on the brewin... of beer was given by Mr. ... Muntzer, a representative of... well-known brewery. M... Muntzer answered many ques... ions and was thanked by Mi... Mary Preston.

Mr. J. H. Toy, who presided welcomed Mr. Leslie Devall as new member. He thanked th... show committee and all who ha... helped in making the exhibitio... such a success. He made specific reference to the time and troubl... taken by the show secretary, Mr... B. M. Ravenscroft to ensure i... success.

Mrs. Ravenscroft, replying, said this would not have been possible without the co-operation of the rest of the committee. All had worked well together.

The treasurer, Mrs. I. Preston, presented a satisfactory balance-sheet.

Mr. J. F. Peet, the guild's representative on the Reading Room Entertainment Committee, was asked for a report on barbecue and fete progress.

It was decided that a harvest supper should be held, and members were reminded to order tickets for the county harvest supper at the Crispin, Stafford, on September 27 and to order bulbs from the county for the bulb show in February.

Mr. P. Tabernor said he hoped that Colton members would patronise the coffee evening at Colwich on September 21.

Marriage

At Colwich on Saturday, William Arthur Compton Cast... second son of Mrs. Castellan... the late Mr. G. E. Castella... the Old House, Wolseley Br... was married to Miss Ann Mar... Tabernor, younger daughter of... and Mrs. J. Tabernor, of Mor... Farm, Wolseley Bridge. The V... the Rev. B. Matthews, officiate... the ceremony which took plac... St. Michael and All An... Church.

Given away by her father, bride wore a full-length dress figured satin brocade, and a cry... coronet held her bouffant veil... place. Her bouquet consisted... gold roses, stephanotis and lilie... the valley.

She was attended as matron... honour by her sister, Mrs. J. ... Jones, and the bridesmaids w... Miss D. Tabernor (cousin), ... Miss E. Gledsdale (bridegroo... cousin). They wore full-len... dresses of crystal gold satin, w... white roses and white freesias... their hair. Their bouquets a... were of white roses and wh... freesias.

Mr. J. L. Walker was the b... man.

TIMES 15/9/62

CENTRE

COLTON in general, and Bellamour in particular will be en fete this afternoon and evening when what is probably the most ambitious event to be organised in the village within living memory takes place in Bellamour Park. Like the barbecue held there last night (Friday) it is being run by a combined village committee working for the improvement of the Reading Room, Colton's village hall.

Attractions include Beppo (Mr. J. Newbold, of Brereton, former clown with Bertram Mills's circus) and Capt. Fleming's "Naughty Cal" chimpanzees, who have appeared on television. A dance floor has been laid in the marquee and the day will close with dancing to the Grasshoppers Band.

Activities will commence with an opening ceremony at 3 p.m., and half an hour later there will be a competition for the best dressed perambulator, followed by a baby show and children's obstacle races.

At 5 p.m. there will be a slow bicycle race and this will be followed by a comic dog show. The tug-of-war contests started at 6 p.m. In this a "Colton Village Ladies" team challenges all comers.

The early English chancel of Colton Church is shown to advantage in this study of the ancient building, which already had a long history before Rugeley's name was even thought of. Its ancient but still ancient nave and chancel in the Decorated style, are almost new in comparison and the square tower appears to be dwarfed still more by the majestic trees which surround it.

Only the tombs are all that can be seen in the view finder of the camera, but of the many dilapidated grave memorials, centuries of well-clipped grass has covered the tottering headstones and uneven mounds which make the task difficult to keep tidy.

Now that the scheme reaches its climax, the conception of the Vicar, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, is understood more clearly. He has enhanced the pretty church to the full and created an always-tidy churchyard which sets off the church to advantage, and made a pleasant approach to a village which is an area runner-up in the Best Village Competition.

The rector told the "Times" that the target has now been reached and funds for the new approach to the church, and the contractors are only waiting for a spell of suitable weather for the laying of the top surface.

This will complete the Church Council's phase of the general improvement scheme, which has been in active progress for two years or more. All the new lawns are now completed, the south lawn (seen in the picture) being the last followed by the west and then the north lawn.

Remaining to be done is a small job by the tower, where a new stained-glass memorial is to replace existing lights in a window, in memory of the late Mr F. Cooper, parish clerk.

The work of setting the gravestones in an artistic manner was one of the voluntary achievements of Mr Cooper. After his untimely death the church had to employ contractors to complete some of the tasks that he had been performing voluntarily, and £200 is still needed to pay for that work. It has been proposed that this sum should be raised as a memorial from the people to his memory, as the window is being given by his family.

Colton. The September meeting was held in the Reading Room, Mrs. I. Preston (President) presiding. Mrs. C. M. Sanders agreed to be the delegate at the autumn Council meeting at Stafford, with Mrs. June Meddings as visitor; resolutions for this meeting were considered and the delegates instructed how to vote. A social time was arranged by Mrs. Jones, the first item being a game, writing a nursery rhyme with the left hand, won by Mrs. B. E. Spencer. The competition for making a hat with newspaper (no pins allowed) was won by Mrs. M. C. Harvey and Mrs. Spencer, and the mystery prize was won by Mrs. Barker. Tea hostesses were Mrs. H. M. Felton, Mrs. L. Jackson and Miss D. M. Jones. Mrs. I. R. Brown took charge of the stall.

families united

TIMES 1/9/62

Two farming families were joined on Saturday by the marriage of Mr. Eric William Sargeant, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Sargeant, of Hamley Heath Farm, Colton, and Miss Kathleen Mary Leadbetter, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Leadbetter, of Newfield Green Farm, Marchington Newlands.

The ceremony which took place at St. John's Marchington Woodlands, was conducted by the Rev. A. S. Towlson, Rector of Colton.

The bride, who was given away by her father, was dressed in a full-length gown of white satin brocade with a short veil held in place by white roses. She carried a bouquet of red roses and white carnations.

There were four bridesmaids, the Misses Gladys Leadbetter (bride's sister) and Ann Dutton (friend), who were attired in pale blue satin brocade dresses with matching headdresses, and Doreen Atkin (niece of the bridegroom) and Nora Leadbetter (bride's sister) in white Swiss broderie Anglaise dresses over blue crepe. The latter two wore headdresses of blue leaves and

TIMES 8/9/62

Mr. William Steven Walker, eldest son of Mrs. G. Walker, of Mandalyn, Barnett Lane, Wordsley, near Stourbridge, and the late Mr. S. Walker, was married on Saturday to Miss Mary Eva Jane Hardcastle, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. Hardcastle, of Bank Top, Colton.

The service at St. Mary's Church, Colton was conducted by the Rector (the Rev. A. S. Towlson) and in the accompanying picture the couple are seen with the clergy and choir after the ceremony.

Given away by her father, the bride wore a full-length dress of wild silk with a train. Her shoulder-length veil was mounted on a diamante coronet and she carried a bouquet of red roses and fern.

The bridesmaids were the Misses Christine Leeke (bride's cousin), Elaine Davies and Jayne Hillman (bridegroom's nieces). They wore dresses of blue nylon over blue silk, the small attendants' dresses being trimmed with white daisies. Their headdresses consisted of halos of white roses and petals, and they wore white shoes and nylon gloves.

Mr. Norman Walker (bridegroom's brother) was the best man.

The bridegroom is a direct

DY BAGOT C

BARBECUE AND FETE DRAW BIG CROWDS TO BELLAMOUR

TIMES 22/9/62

LL-NIGH catastrophic for Colton Village Hall Committee, rain did its best to wreck Saturday's fete and dance ellamour Park but only succeeded in disrupting the ramme and driving everyone into the marquee for most he afternoon. Then when the damage had been done, drying out process began and the evening finished fine.

e two-day event began with rbecue and dance on Friday ng, when nearly 1,000 people ded the first event to be in Bellamour for a genera- or more and saw a pig being ed on a spit. Fairy lights ated the well-lit stalls which ed a crescent of straw round parkland, flanked on one side arquees and on the other by pool.

their wisdom the organisers covered every stall. Snug in "houses" of baled straw h formed sides and back, with ter-height fronts, decorated heather and greenery, the holders were kept busy in the ings, but had a slack time ng the afternoon rain.

he large committee included esentatives of the various ge organisations. It was led Mr. J. C. Price, of Bellamour ge (chairman) and Mrs. P. M kley was secretary.

he opening ceremony was perned by Beppo the Clown (Mr. Newbold, of Brereton) who was oduced by Mr. Price.

One must remember that e-tenths of these fetes and den parties are organised by untary committees who put in months' work. This is the first ture by the Colton committee, I for one hope there will be re in the future," said Mr. wbold. Village life was so ached from town life that they ded their own kind of amuseents, and what better than a e to provide funds for the provement of their village hall? e people would be able to look ck and say: "We helped to make what it is to-day."

Fun for children

Peet; dusters, Mr. and Mrs. Brian Jackson; sweets, Miss S. Haming, balloons and mystery tub, Mrs. A. Haynes, Mrs. M. Collins.

Darts, Colton Youth Club, Mr. J. D. Campbell and Mr. R. Jones; fortunes, Miss Thompson; tombola, Mr. and Mrs. I. Bigham; coconut shies, Christopher Buckley, Terry Martin, crazy kitchen, Miss Janet Jones, Messrs. J. Foster, C. Hibbs, C. Sargeant; balloon bursting, Misses Irene Martin and Angela Collins; bowling for pigs, Mr. B. Bettson, Mr. A. N. Felton; bowling for lamb, Miss Patricia Martin, Mr. J. Jones; tossing the sheaf, Mr. R. Ryans, Mr. R. Grimley; football, Youth Club; pony riding, Mr. W. Leake; jazz ball, Mrs. M. Collins, Mrs. J. F. Peet, Mrs. R. Bannister; bowl-em-up, Mrs. A. Haynes; wheel-em-in, Mrs. Peet and Dorian Peet.

Stewards included the following: baby show and racing events: Mr. and Mrs. F. Hardcastle; decorated prams, Mrs. R. Bannister, Mrs. R. Morrall, Mrs. M. Pomlett; first-aid, Lea Hall Division, St. John Ambulance Brigade.

Beppo the Clown (Mr. J. Newbold) helped to save the day when rain drove the Bellamour visitors under the shelter of marquees. Above he is seen surrounded by children, who greatly enjoyed his antics. And, below, Capt. Fleming and his chimpanzees who also entertained the crowd.

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children

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day's winner was
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rday item was a
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Mrs. J. G. Salter
) and Mrs. D.
They selected
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Country Garden,"
Susan Wisdom,
and a half years
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Mrs. J. E. Myatt,
Crescent; 2, Mrs.
Lodge Road; 3,
of 41, Birch Lane.
came fourth.

kept the children
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Barry Peake; 2,
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n and girls: 1,
man; 2, Mrs.
s. E. King. Men:
L. Jones; 3, G.

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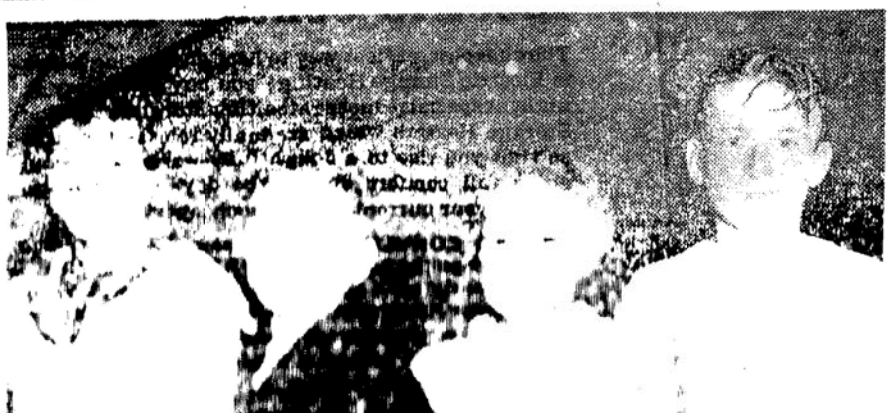
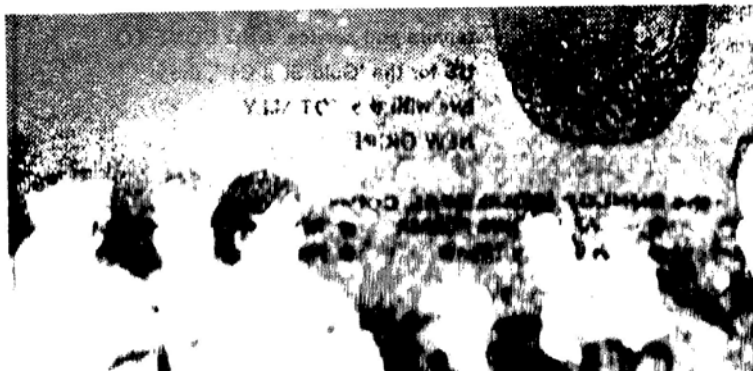
o contestants to
Cannock Wood

Winners of the boys' slow bicycle race (above) are: B. Peake, V. Norman and A. Wright. Below: Prizewinners in the decorated pram competition. Left to right: 1, Helen Myatt; 2, Susan Wisdom; 3, Paul Devall; 4, Pearl Haynes. With them are the judges, Mrs. J. G. Salter and Mrs. D. Moore.

Brereton babies proved the bonniest at Bellamour! Proud mothers of winning babies are seen in the front row. Commencing third from left: Mrs. J. E. Myatt (1st), Mrs. T. Lecke (2nd), Mrs. McAlladon (3rd), Mrs. Shaw (4th).





New chairman of Produce Guilds Federation

Times 22/9/62

Members of the Staffordshire Federation of Village Produce Guilds will be proud that their representative on the National Federation's executive committee, Mr. C. F. Horton, of Lichfield, was on Saturday elected national chairman.

Mr. Horton was vice-chairman last year, and he succeeds Mr. R. F. Fry (Worcestershire), who did not seek re-election after holding office for eight years.

The editor of "Village Life," the journal of the Village Produce Guilds, said at the annual meeting in London, which was attended by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft (Colton) as county delegate, that Staffordshire was still leading with news items for publication.

There was only one entry from the county in the Mickleburgh Cup competition for an article suitable for publication in "Village Life." This was from Mr. and Mrs. Ravenscroft's daughter, Ruth, who was awarded a consolation prize. The editor said he hoped to see more of this "author's" work.

Will encourage interest in produce guilds

Times 6/10/62

Mr. J. D. Lewis, chairman of Colwich and District Village Produce Guild, presided, as county chairman, at the annual dinner of the Staffordshire Association of Village Produce Guilds at Stafford last week. It took the form of a harvest supper.

Among the guests were Professor A. R. Gemmell, professor of biology at Keele University, Mrs. Gemmell, and Mr. and Mrs. Wells, of Rodbaston Farm Institute.

Mr. Lewis proposed the loyal toast and Professor Gemmell, proposing the association, said that such guilds played a valuable part in the life of a village, and no village was too small for such an organisation.

Mr. Lewis said he hoped, during his term of office, to go all out to get other villages interested in the association and, if possible, to enlarge on county activities also.

Colton P.C.C. is considering some form of electric heaters for the nave of the church, as the present oil heating system is not considered satisfactory.

MAINLY ABOUT PEOPLE

Sentinel 21/9/62

Mr. C. F. Horton, of Lichfield, the Staffordshire representative on the Executive of the National Federation of Village Produce Guilds and a life member of the Ashley Guild, was on Saturday elected Chairman of the National Federation.

* * * *

Sixteen - years - old Ruth Ravenscroft, a member of Colton Village Produce Guild, was awarded a special consolation prize for her essay on "A midnight hike on Cannock Chase" by the annual meeting of the National Federation of Village Produce Guilds. The award was received by her mother, who is the Staffordshire county delegate to the annual meeting.

OFF to London very early this morning was Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft of Colton. She has been selected to represent Staffordshire as delegate to the annual meeting of the National Federation of Village Produce Guilds.

Mrs. Ravenscroft, who incidentally, is the "Times" Colton area correspondent, is gratified that she has been selected to go to the London meeting as this has been one of her ambitions ever since the Colton guild was founded and she became interested in the work done by village produce guilds.

She has an added interest in attending this year because her daughter, Ruth, who has just left school and is still on holiday in the Scilly Isles, has won a prize in a national competition run by the Federation. She expects to receive the prize on her daughter's behalf, today.

Ruth's entry was a 1,000-word story about Cannock Chase in a competition designed to find articles suitable for publication in "Village Life." She failed to win the challenge cup this time, but is receiving a consolation prize.

It is indeed an honour to Colton Guild that an official should be selected to represent the county. But this guild has done a tremendous amount of promotion work for the county association.

15/9/62

County girl

Advertiser 20/9/62.

A SPECIAL consolation prize in a competition organised by the journal of the village produce guilds goes to 16-years-old **Ruth Ravenscroft**, of Colton.

Ruth, who is in the Colton Village Produce Guild, sent the only entry from Stafford in the Mickleburgh Cup competition for an article suitable for publication in the guild's journal. Her article was "A Midnight Hike on Cannock Chase."

The prize was received by Ruth's mother at the annual general meeting of the National Federation of Village Produce Guilds on Saturday. Mrs. Ravenscroft was county delegate

CHURCH IS FILLED FOR GRAMMAR SCHOOL DEDICATION SERVICE

Times 6/10/62

ST. Augustine's Church was packed to capacity on Monday evening to hear Canon Bryan Green, Rector of Birmingham, give an address at the annual dedication service of Rugeley Grammar School. Present and past pupil's attended in large numbers with members of the staff, led by Mr. T. B. Smart (headmaster), and many parents and friends.

The service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. N. R. Torrington, and also present were the Rev. R. A. Cason (vicar of Brereton), the Rev. J. Easton (curate of St. Augustine's) and the Rev. P. Griffiths (minister of Heron Court Congregational Church). The Rev. I. T. F. Graham (Methodist minister) was prevented from attending by another engagement.

The school choir sang the anthem, "The Lord is my Shepherd" by Henry Smart, Byrd's "Alleluia" and "Dona Nobis Pacem" (Anon.).

"evangelical" sermon. He began by saying that one could not escape the fact of Jesus Christ, and sooner or later one had to make up one's mind about Him: whether He was somebody to reject and ignore, or Someone who was going to make a big difference to one's life.

He quoted from Pilate: "What shall ye do then, with Jesus who is called Christ?" and said that one must decide if they were look on Jesus as the ideal man as being more than man—as Go

On the teaching of youth schools, Canon Green thoug that all sixth formers ought make sure that they understc why the Church claimed Je Christ as the Son of God a not just as a moral leader.

Colton Village Produce Guild

Mercury 12/10/62

At the October meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild, held in the Reading Room, Mr. J. H. Toy presided and welcomed new members.

It was stated that the Guides' hoopla stall at the recent Barbecue and Fete had made a contribution of over £21 towards the funds for Village Hall improvements. Names were taken for the proposed County Spring Digging match, namely, Mr. T. Preston, Mr. J. F. Peet, Mr. P. A. Preston, Mr. J. Devall and Mr. B. T. Jackson. An enlightening talk on English Law and how it was formed was given by Mr. D. Pollard, who also answered questions. A vote of thanks to Mr. Pollard was proposed by Mr. J. F. Peet.

Interest was keen in the Floral Arrangement competition, done in the room in not more than ten minutes, the judge being Mrs. N. Alexander, of Etching Hill, who awarded points in the ladies section to: 1, Mrs. Ivy Preston; 2, Mrs. H. M. Felton; 3, Mrs. M. S. Toy. Gents: 1, Mrs. Leslie Devall; 2, Mr. P. A. Preston; 3, Mr. Jack Brown. Mrs. Alexander was thanked by Miss Ruth Ravenscroft. Stewards were Mr. G. E. D. Atkin, senr., and Mrs. C. M. Amyes. A mystery prize given by Mr. Brown was won by Mr. Atkin.

Members were reminded of the

PRODUCE GUILD.—At the Octo- meeting, Mr J. H. Toy presided nd welcomed new members, Mr nd Mrs E. R. Thorpe, and Mr nd Mrs Booth. He expressed the uild's congratulations to Miss Mary reston on her engagement. Minutes the September meeting were read nd confirmed, and it was stated at the guild's hoopla stall at a ent barbecue and fete had conbuted over £21 towards village l improvements. Names were en in for the proposed county ring digging match—Mr T. Preston, Mr J F Peet, Mr P A Preston, Mr J Devall and Mr B T Jackson. talk on English law was given Mr D. Pollard, who also swered questions. A vote of anks to Mr Pollard was proposed Mr J. F. Peet. There was keen interest in a florist arrangement competition, the judge being Mrs N Alexander, of Etching Hill. Results: 1 Mrs Ivy Preston, 2 Mrs H M Felton, 3 Mrs M S Toy; gents: 1 Mr Leslie Devall, 2 Mr P A Preston, 3 Mr Jack Brown. Mrs Alexander said it had been a difficult task. She was thanked by Miss Ruth Ravenscroft. Stewards were Mr G E D Atkin, senr., and Mrs C M Amyes. A mystery prize, given by Mr Brown, was won by Mr Atkin. Nominations for the 1963 show committee were accepted by Mr Toy—Mr Atkin, Mr W C Preston, Mr D W Garwood, Mr Leslie Devall, and Mr P A Preston. Tea hostesses were Mrs Amyes and Mrs Joan Garwood. ADVERTS

COMMITTEE.—At the final meeting of the barbecue committee, which was followed by a social, all organisations and individuals who had helped in any way with the barbecue or fete were invited. The chairman of the entertainment committee, Mr Fred Hardcastle presided. It was stated that when a few outstanding items had come in, the final total would not be very far short of £200. The chairman said thanks were due to all workers, to those stallholders who stuck to their posts in bad weather, all firms who contributed prizes, to the Press and photographers, and to the wives of workers who had spent so many long hours while husbands were busy on matters connected with barbecue and fete. Mr J C Price moved a resolution that the barbecue committee be co-opted on the village hall, and this was supported by Mr Hardcastle. The resolution was passed. After the meeting refreshments were provided free and games and dancing were enjoyed.

THANKSGIVING. — Harvest services at Colton St. Mary's Church began on Friday afternoon with the children's service, when all the pupils of the village school took part. A good number of adults attended. The lesson was read by

COLTON

Mercury 19/10/62

residing at the October meet of Colton W.I. in the Reading m, Mrs. Ivy Preston, Presi-, asked members to stand in ice in memory of Mrs. C. A. ley, a good member they had ntly lost. It was stated that stall at the barbecue and had raised (with a com- tion) a little over £20. angements were made for the kside Group meeting at chington Woodlands on Octo- 22. Those who accepted ination for the 1963 Show mittee are Mrs. Preston, D. M. Jones, Mrs. B. M. enscroft, and it was anced that Mr. L. Jackson also be joining the Committ having been nominated at Produce Guild. Mrs. M. Big- agreed to represent the W.I. he Entertainment Committee he Village Hall. Mrs. C. M. lers collected the pennies, in ection with the appeal of ciated Country Women of World. Mrs. Ravenscroft acted as delegate in place Mrs. Sanders who was unable attend) reported on the mn Council meeting at ford and was thanked by Mrs. lers. An interesting talk on or bulb growing was given Mr. R. Fearnehough, of Rod-

at Colton

Times 13/10/62

13/10/62

Interest was keen in a floral arrangement competition staged at the October meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild.

Competitions were required to complete their arrangement in 10 minutes and the judge, Mrs. N. Alexander of Etching Hill, commented on the beauty of the entries. Before awarding points, she said her task had been a difficult one.

Results were as follows:—Ladies' section: 1, Mrs. I. Preston; 2, Mrs. H. M. Felton; 3, Mrs. M. S. Toy (whose material was gleaned entirely from the hedgerows). Men's section: 1, Mr. L. Devall; 2, Mr. P. A. Preston; 3, Mr. J. Brown.

Mr. J. H. Toy (president) welcomed new members, Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Thorpe and Mr. and Mrs. Booth. It was announced that the Guild's hoopla stall at the recent barbecue and fete had contributed more than £21 towards funds for Village Hall improvements. Names were submitted for the proposed County Spring Digging Match and nominations for the 1963 show committee were accepted.

An enlightening talk on English Law and its history was given by Mr. D. Pollard who afterwards answered members' questions and was thanked by Mr. J. F. Peet.

A mystery parcel, given by Mr. Brown, was won by Mr. G. Atkin and tea hostesses were Mrs. Aymes and Mrs. J. Garwood.

Members were reminded of

Harvest festival services at St. Mary's, Colton, began on Friday afternoon with a schoolchildren's service when all the pupils took gifts to church in the presence of adults.

The lesson was read by Mr. D. E. Waters (headmaster) and the organist was a teacher, Mrs. D. R. Shaw.

Harvest services, which continued on Sunday, were conducted by the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson. At evensong Mr. Waters read the lesson and gave an address. Collections were devoted to the church grounds scheme.

COLTON W.I. HEAR TALK ON PLANTS

Times 20/10/62

A talk on indoor bulb growing and house plants was given by Mr. R. Fearneyhough, of Rodbaston Farm Institute to members of Colton W.I. at their October meeting. He brought a good selection of plants and bulbs to illustrate the talk, and also answered several questions. The speaker was thanked by Mrs. L. Jackson.

It was stated that the stall at the recent barbecue and fete had raised £20. Arrangements were made regarding the Parkside Group meeting at Marchington Woodlands on Monday next. Nominations were accepted for the 1963 show committee, and suggestions were invited regarding the introduction of new classes into the show schedule.

Mrs. M. Bigham agreed to represent the W.I. on the entertainment committee of the Village Hall. Mrs. C. M. Sanders collected the pennies in connection with the appeal of Associated Countrywomen of the World. A report of the Autumn Council meeting at stafford was given by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft.

The competition for a floral arrangement was won by Mrs. P. M. Buckley, and the mystery prize went to Mrs. Bigham. Tea hostesses were Mrs. I. Preston, and Mrs. J. Meddings. Miss Jones was in charge of the stall.

Alone among 500 women

Advertiser 11/10/62

MR. PETER A. DEAN cleared his throat and said "Yes. I do feel a bit out of it." As deputy secretary to Staffordshire Rural Community Council, Mr. Dean was the only man in an audience of 500 women attending the annual Staffordshire W.I. Federation Council meeting at Stafford Borough Hall on Tuesday.

And Mr. Dean, who was representing his council, had a seat of honour right on the front row of the stalls with W.I. delegates and special guests.

Later, a male Press reporter joined the meeting and, later still, the principal speaker turned up — a Mr. S. H. Jerrett.

Gay social for Colton barbecue committee

Times 13/10/62

Colton Village Hall Entertainments Committee, for the final meeting of the barbecue committee, arranged a social evening attended by all organisations and individuals who had helped with the barbecue or fete. Mr. F. Hardcastle, chairman of the Entertainments Committee, presided.

It was announced that the final total would be nearly £200 and Mr. Hardcastle said thanks were due to all workers, to the stallholders who stuck to their posts in bad weather, to firms who had contributed prizes, to the Press and photographers, and to the wives of workers who had spent lonely hours while husbands were busy on fete and barbecue matters.

A resolution by Mr. J. C. Price, that the barbecue committee be co-opted on to the Entertainments Commitee, was supported by Mr. Hardcastle and carried.

Free refreshments, games, and dancing followed, several of the older ones taking part in the Twist as well as in the more graceful old-time dances.

DISTRICT NEWS

Staffs Advertiser 25/10/62

COLTON

MOTHERS UNION.—Attendance at the October meeting of the Colton M.U. was disappointing. Only eight members turned up. And, as no speaker could be obtained, Mrs. P B Best showed coloured slides. She was thanked by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft and Miss Ellen Rotchell attended to the teas. Regret is felt by many of Colton people at the news of the death of Mrs. Ethel Goodin, wife of the previous Rector, the Rev. H. H. Goodin, who retired in June 1956, and went to live in Bletchley, Bucks.

VILLAGE PRODUCE GUILD. — Colton Village Produce Guild were entertained with two plays, and old age pensioners were invited to them also. The players were : Dennis Whittaker, Donald Nutter, Jessie Nicholls, Michael Teece, Jean Craddock, Sybil McGill, Brian Doody, Robert Denning, Douglas Legge, Ann Jones, Betty Hampton, Gwen Wall, Dan Robson, Judith Middleton, Dorothy Marshall, Rose Till, Audrey Whittaker. Lighting, Clem Jones; sound, Peggy Nutton. The two plays, were "Harlequinade", by Terence Rattigan, and "Maria Marten" A vote of thanks was given by Mr. J. H. Toy the chairman of Guild.

WHIST DRIVE.—The annual whist drive organised by the headmaster, Mr. D. E. Waters and techers, Mrs. D R Shaw and Mrs. M S Toy, to provide funds to supply Christmas panty and gifts for the pupils of Colton St. Mary's Church School, was held in the school recently. The MC was Mr. P. Westhorpe, and the prizes were presented by Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Felton. Mrs. Chell, Mr. T. Jones, Mrs. Reed, Mr. J. W. [illegible] Myatt, Miss

W.I. — Presiding at the October meeting of Colton Women's Institute in the Reading Room, Mrs. Ivy Preston, president, asked members to stand in silence as a mark of respect in memory of Mrs. C. A. Tooley, a member who died recently. Minutes of the September meeting were read and confirmed, and it was stated that the stall at the recent barbecue and fete, had raised (with a competition) a little over £20. Arrangements were made regarding the Parkside Group meeting at Marchington Woodlands on October 22nd. Those who accepted nomination for the 1963 show committee are:- Mrs. Preston, Miss D. M. Jones, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, and it was announced that Mrs. L. Jackson will also be joining the Committee, having been nominated at the produce guild. Suggestions were invited for ideas of classes to be included in the new show schedules, several were forthcoming and will be considered by the committee. Mrs. M. Bigham agreed to represent the W.I. on the entertainment committee of the Village Hall. Mrs. C. M. Sanders collected the pennies, in connection with the appeal of Associated Country Women of the World. Mrs. Ravenscroft (who acted as delegate in place of Mrs. Sanders who was unable to attend) gave a report of the Autumn Council meeting a Stafford. She was given a vote of thanks by Mrs. Sanders. A talk on indoor bulb growing, and house plants, was given by Mr. R. Fearnehough, of Rodbaston Farm Institute, who brought along a selection to illustrate his talk, and also answered questions. A vote of thanks to Mr. Fearnchough was voiced by Mrs. Jackson. The competition for a floral arrangement, judged by Mr. Fearnehough was won by Mrs. P. M. Buckley and

RATTIGAN PLAYS AT COLTON

Staffs Advertiser 27/10/62

Members of Colton Produce Guild and the old-age pensioners of the village were entertained with Terence Rattigan's "Harlequinade" and "Maria Marten" in the Reading Room on Wednesday. The plays were presented by Rugeley producer, Donald Latter and "The Mummers."

COLTON

COLLECTION. — The annual house-to-house collection held recently in the Colton parish to support the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen, has raised £7 1s. Collectors were Mrs. Ivy Preston and Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft (auxiliary secretary), who organised this effort.

MEMORIAL. — Incorporated in morning service at St. Mary's Church on Sunday was a short memorial service to the late Mrs. Ethel Goodin, wife of the Rev. H. H. Goodin. The funeral was at Bletchley, and a few Colton churchpeople attended, and wreaths were sent from the Mothers' Union members and other friends.

YOUTH CLUB.— Colton Youth Club members, under the leadership of Mr. D. E. Waters (Leader) organised a rummage sale in the reading room to provide funds to give old people and widows a Christmas gift. They were assisted by some of the mothers of club members, also Mrs. Waters, Mrs. P. M. Buckley, Mrs. H. M. Goring and Mrs. L. Curtis. The competitions were won by Mrs. E. M. Goodall, Mrs. L. Jackson. The "spot the ball" was won by Miss Edna Lycett. About £17 was raised. 1/11/62 (AOT)

Harvest Services at Colton

Mercury 12/10/62

Harvest Festival services at Colton St. Mary's Church commenced on Friday afternoon with the children's service, when all the pupils of the Village School took gifts. A good number of adults attended. The lesson was read by Mr. D. E. Waters, and the organist was Mrs. D. R. Shaw.

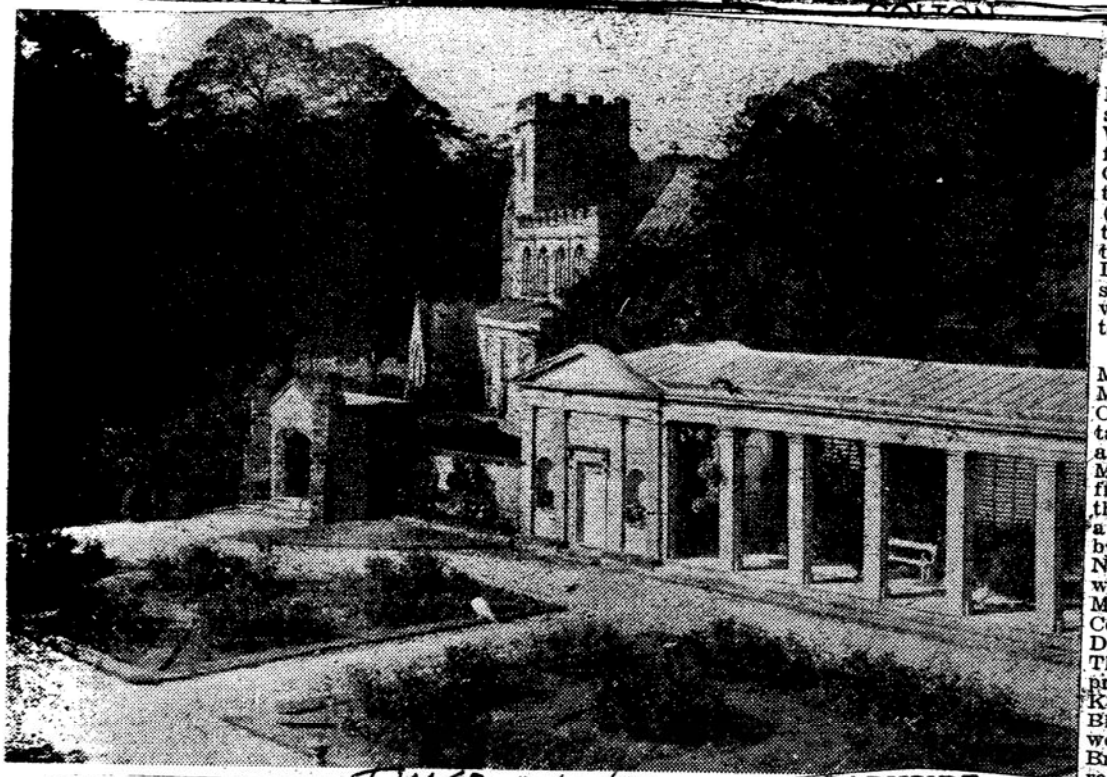
Services were continued on Sunday, all being conducted by the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, Mr. D. E. Wates reading the lesson and giving address at evensong. Collections will be devoted to the Church grounds scheme. The church had been decorated in a charming way by a small band of ladies.

COLTON COLLECTION

A recent house-to-house collection in Colton parish raised £7 1s. for the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen. The collec-

OLTON MOTHF SHOWN SLIDES

ere was a disappointing atten-



This attractive view of Blithfield Church has as its foreground the orangerie and rose garden in the grounds of Blithfield Hall, the home of Nancy Lady Bagot who acted as hostess to the Fields of Ancient Staffordshire Churches on Thursday. The association, which she invited to hold their annual meeting at the Hall, have given more than £600 towards the restoration of Blithfield Church during

PARKSIDE W.I. GROUP

The Autumn meeting of the Parkside Group of Women's Institutes was held at Marchington Woodlands, when representatives from Abbots Bromley, Blithfield, Colton, Kingstone and Marchington attended. Mrs. J. L. Taylor (Colton) Convener (who only returned from her visit to Persia the previous day) introduced Mrs. Latchford, the Chairman. President of Marchington Woodlands, who extended a hearty welcome to the company.

The County representative, Mrs. R. L. Jones, of Hanchurch Manor, gave details of future County events. An interesting talk was given by Miss Hodges, a representative of the County Medical Officer of Health, on free services to be obtained from the local authority, illustrated by a film strip. She was thanked by Mrs. M. Hibbert and Miss M. Neighbour. The competitions were judged by Mrs. Jones and Miss Hodges, winners being Miss Copestake, Mrs. Rushton, Miss D. M. Jones and Mrs. Townsend. Thanks to the judges were expressed by Mrs. Warrington, of Kingstone, and Mrs. T. Rees, of Blithfield. The mystery prize went to Mrs. Meddings, of Abbots Bromley. The social time arranged by Mrs. Hibbert, was won by Mrs. B. E. Spencer, of Colton.

A vote of thanks to the hostess Institute was proposed by Mrs. Vivian, of Abbots Bromley, seconded by Mrs. Spencer, of Colton.

Colton collection

The annual house-to-house collection held recently in Colton for the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen, has raised £7/1/-. The collectors were Mrs. Ivy Preston, and Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft (Auxiliary Secretary) who organised the effort.

Colton sale

Colton Youth Club members with the help of their leader Mr. D. E. Waters, organised a rummage sale to provide funds to give the elderly people and widows of the parish a Christmas gift. About £17 was raised. Helping at the event were, Mrs. Waters, Mrs. P. M. Buckley, Mrs. E. M. Goodall, Miss Ruth Ravenscroft, Miss Edna Lycett, Miss S. E. Goodall, Mrs. P. L. Bannister, Mrs. H. M. Goring, Mrs. L. A. Curtis, Mrs. I. V. Collins, and Mr. David Boden. Competition winners were: Sherry, Mrs. Goodall; dressed doll, Mrs. L. Jackson. Miss Edna Lycett won 'Spot the Ball'.

Raises £40

Colton School's annual whist drive to provide funds for the Christmas party was held at the school on Friday. Mr. P. W. Westhorpe was M.C., and prizes were presented by Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Felton to Mrs. Chell, Mr. T. Hooley, Mrs. M. A. Myatt, Miss Jones, Mrs. Reed, Mr. J. W. Jefferys, Mrs. Z. Rowe, Mr. H. Sparkes, Mrs. Dawson, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. L. Wilson, Mrs. D. Harley, Miss N. Lane, Mr. J. H. Wright, Mrs. N. B. A. Martin, Miss J. Lucas (2), Mr. F. Lakin.

Competitions for parcels of groceries were won by Dianne Grimley, Mr. R. H. Norman, Mrs. J. Cooper, Mrs. H. Duke, Mrs. Brown, Mr. W. Bexon, Mrs. Dixon, Mr. G. Aymes, Mr. A. Devall and Marilyn Collins. A chicken was won by John Bannister.

Mr. D. E. Waters (headmaster) thanked all who had helped to make the effort a success. About £40 was raised. He asked those present to support a rummage sale to be held this week-end by the Youth Club in aid of Christmas gifts for local old-aged pensioners and widows.

PARKSIDE

W.I.—The Autumn meeting of the Parkside Group of Women's Institutes was held at Marchington Woodlands. A good gathering of representatives from Abbots Bromley, Blithfield, Colton, Kingstone, and Marchington attended. Mrs J. L. Taylor (Colton) was convenor (who only returned from her visit to Persia the previous day) introduced Mrs Latchford, the chairman president of Marchington Woodlands, who welcomed the company. The convener read the minutes of the Spring meeting at Kingstone, and these were confirmed. The county representative, Mrs. R. L. Jones, of Hanchurch Manor, gave details of future county events. The highlight of these was the proposed outing to London next Spring. A talk was given by Miss Hodges, a representative of the county medical officer of health, on free services to be obtained from the local authority, illustrated by a film strip. A vote of thanks to Miss Hodges was proposed by Mrs M. Hibbert of Marchington Woodlands, seconded by Miss M. Neighbour, of Marchington. The competitions were judged by Mrs Jones and Miss Hodges. the winners were: A hanging basket in half a grape fruit, Miss Copestake, and 2nd, Mrs Rushton, both of Marchington, and for 1lb pot of raspberry jam, Miss D. M. Jones, of Colton, and 2nd Mrs Townsend of Marchington Woodlands. Thanks to the judges were given by Mrs. Warrington, of Kingstone, and Mrs T. Rees of Blithfield. The mystery prize went to Mrs. Meddings, of Abbots Bromley. It was decided that the Spring meeting shall be at Colton, on March 25th, 1963. The social time arranged by Mrs. Hibbert was won by Mrs B. E. Spencer of Colton. A vote of thanks to the hostess Institute was proposed by Mrs Vivian of Abbots Bromley, seconded by Mrs Spencer of Colton.

W.I. group

PARKSIDE Group of Women's Institutes held their autumn meeting at Marchington Woodlands on Monday. There was a good gathering of members from Abbots Bromley, Blithfield, Colton, Kingstone and Marchington. Mrs. J. L. Taylor, of Colton, the convener, had only returned from her visit to Persia on the previous day.

Mrs. Latchford, president of Marchington institute, was introduced as chairman by Mrs. Taylor and she extended a welcome to everyone.

The county representative, Mrs. R. L. Jones, of Hanchurch Manor, gave details of future county events, the highlight of which appeared to be a proposed outing to London in the Spring at an inclusive charge of £2 8s.

Miss Hodges, a representative of the county medical officer of health, gave an enlightening talk on the free services obtainable from the local authorities, illustrated by a film strip. A vote of thanks to Miss Hodges was proposed by Mrs. M. Hibbert (Marchington) and seconded by Miss M. Neighbour.

The competitions were judged by Mrs. Jones and Miss Hodges, the winners being — Hanging basket in half a grapefruit: 1, Miss Copestake; 2, Mrs. Rushton (both of Marchington); pot of raspberry jam: 1, Miss D. M. Jones (Colton); 2, Mrs. Townsend (Marchington). The judges were thanked by Mrs. Warrington (Kingstone) and Mrs. T. Rees (Blithfield).

The mystery prize went to Mrs. Meddings (Abbots Bromley). It was decided that the Spring meeting should be held at Colton on March 25.

The social time arranged by Miss Hibbert was won by Mrs. B. E. Spencer (Colton). A vote of thanks to the hostess institute was proposed by Mrs. Vivian (Abbots Bromley) supported by Mrs. Spencer (Colton).

Death of wife of former Colton Rector

Colton residents learned with regret this week of the death on Monday of Mrs. Ethel Goodin, wife of the Rev. H. H. Goodin, a former rector of Blithfield and Colton. After 10 years in the parish he retired in June, 1956, when he and his wife went to live at Bletchley, Bucks.

Mrs. Goodin carried on her duties as a Sunday School teacher and enrolling member of the Mothers' Union even when advised to do so from a wheelchair. Some of the work she started in Colton is still carried on by the Mothers' Union, such as the corporate communion service on the third Sunday in each month, the Shrove Tuesday party, which she felt was a good way of preparing for the solemn season of Lent and the "in memoriam" donations for lilies to decorate the altar at Easter.

Mrs. Goodin corresponded regularly with several friends in her old parish and had the "Times" posted to her to keep abreast of the village news.

MRS. ETHEL GOODIN.—Considerable regret was occasioned in Colton by the death of Mrs. Ethel Goodin, aged 68, the wife of the Rev. H. H. Goodin, Rector of Blith-

COLTON

YOUTH CLUB.—Under the leadership of Mr. D. E. Waters, Colton Youth Club members organised a rummage sale to provide funds for Christmas gifts for the old people and widows in the district and raised about £17. Mr. G. E. D. Atkin senior was doorkeeper and the Youth Club members were assisted by their mothers and also by Mrs. Waters, Mrs. P. M. Buckley, Mrs. H. M. Goring and Mrs. L. Curtis. The competition for a bottle of sherry

Colton Produce Guild

An enjoyable evening was spent by Colton Village Produce Guild members with Mr. and Mrs. Denis Whittaker as guests (Mr. and Mrs. Donald Nutter were unable to attend) at their harvest supper, held in the Reading Room. The Chairman Mr. J. H. Toy welcomed everyone to an excellent meal prepared by members.

Later the company watched local films, shown by Mr. S. J. Timmins, Mr. Jack Brown arranged games and dancing. A competition for a Dundee cake given by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft (who organised the competition)

COLTON VILLAGERS PAY A TRIBUTE

Incorporated in the morning service at St. Mary's Church, Colton, on Sunday was a short memorial service for the late Mrs. Ethel Goodin, wife of the Rev. H. H. Goodin, a former

W.I. PARKSIDE GROUP

Staffordshire Advertiser

THE AUTUMN MEETING

31/10/62

The autumn meeting of the Parkside Group of Women's Institutes was held at Marchington Woodlands, on Monday of last week, a good gathering of representatives from Abbots Bromley, Blithfield, Colton, Kingstone and Marchington attending.

Mrs. J. L. Taylor (Colton) the convener (who had only returned from her visit to Persia the previous day) introduced the Chairman (Mrs. J. Latchford), President of Marchington Woodlands, who extended a hearty welcome to the company.

The convener read the minutes of spring meeting held at Kingstone, and these were confirmed.

The county representative was Mrs. R. L. Jones, of Hanchurch Manor, who gave details of future county events, the highlight of which seemed to be the proposed outing to London next spring, the inclusive cost of which is £2 8s.

A most interesting and enlightening talk was given by Miss Hodges (a representative of the County Medical Officer of Health) on the free services to be obtained from the local authority, illustrated by a film strip.

A vote of thanks to Miss Hodges was proposed by Mrs. M. Hibbert (Marchington Woodlands), seconded by Miss M. Neighbour (Marchington).

The competitions were judged by Mrs. Jones and Miss Hodges, the winners being: Hanging basket in half a grapefruit—1 Miss Copestake, 2 Mrs. Rushton (both of Marchington), 1lb. pot of raspberry jam—1 Miss D. M. Jones (Colton), 2 Mrs. Townsend (Marchington Woodlands).

Thanks to the judges were expressed by Mrs. Warrington (Kingstone) and Mrs. T. Rees (Blithfield).

The mystery prize, a box of chocolates, went to Mrs. Meddings, of Abbots Bromley.

The social time, arranged by Mrs. Hibbert, was won by Mrs. B. E. Spencer (Colton).

It was announced that the spring meeting will be held at Colton on March 25, 1963.

A vote of thanks to the hostess Institute was proposed by Mrs. Vivian (Abbots Bromley), seconded by Mrs. Spencer (Colton).

PARKSIDE GROUP

The autumn meeting of th Parkside Group of Women Institutes was held at March ington Woodlands, and w attended by members fr Abbots Bromley, Blithfie Colton, Kingstone and Marc ington.

Mrs. J. L. Taylor, of Colt who returned the previo day from a visit to Pers was the Convener. She int duced Mrs. Latchford (Pre dent, Marchington Wo lands W.I.) who presided a welcomed the company. M R. L. Jones, of Hanchu Manor, gave details of fut county events.

Miss Hodges, a represen tive of the County Medi Officer of Health, gave a t illustrated by a film strip, the free services availa from local authorities. vote of thanks was given Mrs. M. Hibbert, of Mar ington Woodlands, secon by Miss M. Neighbours, Marchington. Competiti were judged by Mrs. Jo and Miss Hodges.

Winners of a competi for a hanging basket in a grapefruit were: 1, M Copestake; 2, Mrs. Rush both of Marchington. competition for raspb jam was won by: 1, Mis M. Jones, of Colton; 2, Townsend, of Marchi Woodlands.

The mystery prize won by Mrs. Medding Abbots Bromley, and a petition in the social arranged by Mrs. Hil was won by Mrs. B. E. cer, of Colton.

TIMES 17/11/62

WED HALF-CENTURY AND BIRTHPLACE HIS ONLY HOME

MR. and MRS. WALTER JOHN MYATT celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on Friday in the house in which Mr. Myatt was born and has spent the whole of his 73 years. Formerly part of Browns Row, it now glories in a new title, 79, High Street, Colton.

Mrs. Myatt, now 72 years-old, was formerly Miss Mary Ann Whitehouse, of Armitage. She lived at Bank Top, Colton, and attended Colton School until she was eight. They were married by the Rev. F. P. Parker at Colton on November 9, 1912.

Mr. Myatt, who has always been known as "Bob," first worked at the Trent Valley tin works of Henry Blunn and Company, but after 28 years there he took a job with the Roads and Bridges Department of Staffordshire County Council. He remained with the department for 25 years, and for the last four years he was foreman. He retired for health reasons six years ago.

A keen footballer in his younger days, Mr. Myatt used to walk to Rugeley to play in the Bible Class team. Next he joined Brereton St. Michael's and for 12 consecutive seasons he played for Rugeley Town and Rugeley Albion Swifts. Later he joined Colton St. Mary's and he also played for Ridware United and Abbots Bromley.

He is proud of his collection of medals which he won during his footballing days. Mrs. Myatt recalls that she thought nothing of walking miles, with a child in a push-chair, to watch her husband play.

They have a family of three daughters and a son: Mrs. Vera Collins, of Colton, Mrs. Nellie Southwell, of Brereton, Mrs. Lilian Curtis, and Mr. Leslie Myatt, both of Colton, and 11 grandchildren.

On Saturday there was a family celebration party at the Greyhound Inn.

Christmas cheer for Colton aged

TIMES 3/11/62

Colton Youth Club members, with their leader Mr. D. E. Waters, organised a whist drive at the weekend to raise funds for Christmas gifts to be distributed among the elderley people and widows in the parish.

About £17 was realised and helpers at the sale were Mesdames Waters, P. M. Buckley, E. M. Goodall, P. L. Bannister, H. M. Goring, L. A. Curtis, I. V. Collins, Mr. David Boden and the Misses Ruth Ravenscroft, Edna Lycett and S. E. Goodall.

The competitions for a bottle of sherry, a dressed doll and "spot the ball," were won by Mrs. Goodall, Mrs. L. Jackson and Miss Edna L[illegible]

Colton Quiz

16/11/62

An entertainment of an unusual nature took place in Colton Reading Room, when Youth Club members challenged members of the Entertainment Committee of the Village Hall to a game of Criss Cross Quiz. Mr. D. E. Waters, Club Leader, was question master and Dennis Hibbs score-keeper.

Members of the Entertainment Committee (who won by 200 points to 180) taking part were

Colton M.U. loses oldest member

The oldest member of Colton Mothers' Union, Mrs. Jane Hardcastle, of 9, High Street, Colton, died on Monday. She was the widow of Mr. William Hardcastle, founder of the firm of Hardcastle Brothers, who died in 1941.

Mrs. Hardcastle was keenly interested in the Mothers' Union. She was for some years a member of the Parochial Church Council and until recently had been an active worker for the annual garden party.

She leaves five daughters and a son;

DUFF—RAVENSCROFT

ADVERTISER 9/11/62

A Rugeley man, John Ravenscroft, of 74 Burnthill Lane, Rugeley, who is a police constable at Aldridge, was married to Miss Margaret Duff of 204 St Michael's Road, Brereton, Rugeley, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Rugeley, on Saturday. The bride, who was given away by her father, wore an embroidered white nylon full-length dress, and a bouffant veil and crystal coronet. Her bouquet consisted of orchids, cream roses and stephanotis. The bridesmaids were Miss Maureen Duff, twin sister of the bride, and Miss Maureen Mobberley. They wore

Colton whist

A whist drive took Colton Village School evening, organised by t Produce Guild, for th Mr. P. W. Westhorpe M.C., and prizes were by Mrs. G. Hampson Aspley, Mr. E. Willian Preston, Mr. A. N. F L. Jenkins, Mrs. K. Mrs. J. Cowlishaw, M non, Mrs. K. Marti Rollins, Mrs. K. H Fern, Mrs. Hodgkins, Mrs. J. W. Hooley; miniatures, Mrs. Jenkins and Mr. F. Hardcastle. The competition for a turkey, was won by Mr. J. H. Wright.

Harvest Supper at Colton

TIMES 10/10/62.

MR. and Mrs. Denis Whittaker were guests at Colton Village Produce Guild's harvest supper, held in the Reading Room, on Thursday of last week. Mr. J. H. Toy, who presided, is seen at the head of the table with Mrs. Toy.

A typical "harvest home" meal was provided, including cold beef, home-made bread rolls and a variety of pickles, with fruit pie and cream to follow.

After the meal, the company watched local films shown by Mr. S. J. Timmins. As usual, these were greatly enjoyed, especially the shots taken at the recent show when a pig made an attempt to escape.

Games and dancing were arranged by Mr. Jack Brown.

A competition for a Dundee cake, given by Mrs. B. M. Ravencroft, and a box of chocolates given by Mrs. C. M. Sanders, were won by Mr. Toy and Mr. Timmins respectively.

The chairman asked members to support the whist drive which is being held on November 30 in aid of guild funds.

Rugeley wedding

TIMES. 10/11/62

Police-constable John Ravenscroft, only son of Mr. and Mrs. S. Ravenscroft, of 74, Burnthill Lane, Rugeley, was married on Saturday to Miss Margaret Duff, twin daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Duff, of 104, St. Michael's Drive, Brereton.

The Rev. Father L. Bouchier officiated at the ceremony at St. Joseph's Church.

Given away by her father, the bride wore a white nylon dress with train, embroidered with lilies of the valley. Her waist-length bouffant veil was secured by a crystal coronet. For a bouquet she selected cream roses, stephanotis

In attendance were her t sister, Miss Maureen Duff, Miss Maureen Mobberley. T wore dresses of apple-green broc with a mauve ruched nylon pa For headdresses they wore ma roses. Their shoes were ap green and they wore mauve gl and carried bouquets of stephan and mauve freesias.

Mr. Adrian Dibble was the b man.

The bride was, until recen employed at Armitage Ware L The bridegroom is stationed Aldridge, where they will m their home after a honeym

VANDALISM on condemne making empty houses sti plained Councillor F. Hardca Parish Council. He moved a r Council be asked if pressure their demolition. TIMES

Concern was also expressed at the long delay in the improvement of the village's school.

Matters discussed included the Rydal footpath, which was now settled satisfactorily with Mr. G. W. Cooper accepting responsibility; the bridge along the brook side, which appeared to have been repaired; and the bridge at Parchfields, about which there was nothing further to report.

It was decided on the proposition of Councillor Hardcastle, that a further letter be sent, pressing for action.

It was also stated that there was nothing to report regarding the grading of the ground by the brook bridge.

An inspection of the nine wickets on the public footpath leaving from the Pinfold to the Trent Valley had been made, and it was stated that several of these needed renewal or hanging posts, or extensive repairs. Some of the damage appeared to be due to vandalism. A report on the finding of the judges of the Best Kept Village Competition was read, and it was stated that the certificate awarded to Colton had not yet been received.

The chairman, said Mrs. M. S. Toy, was making inquiries to see if this could be presented at the Produce Guild whist drive on November 30.

It was decided to write to the rural council stressing the danger at the bend in the road by the cattle pens at Trent Valley.

A letter from the County Council stated that the question of Bellamour Corner would be reviewed in 12 months.

A letter was read from the Parochial Church Council regarding the service at the war memorial on Sunday next. It was decided that a wreath, at members' expense, should be obtained, and that

IT was 10-30 p.m. on Monday when Colton Parish Council closed a meeting called to discuss the present wave of vandalism which is causing widespread damage in the village. They decided to ask the local inspector of police to take action in the interests of the public.

At the outset a letter from Lichfield Rural Council was read, stating that the owners of empty houses in the village had been asked to take steps to demolish the unsightly buildings.

Councillor F. Hardcastle said he understood that the owners of one house hoped to renovate it, but that was now out of the question, owing to vandalism. Apart from broken windows, doors and shelves had been taken down and now even the inside walls were being pulled down. Two boys who were recently chased out of the house denied having done any damage.

During the long discussion which followed it was revealed that in the last two or three weeks the public telephone kiosk had been damaged; street lights had been broken by catapults and stone throwing; and electric fences had been cut. Elderly people were becoming too afraid to go out, it was stated.

One even more serious case was the picking up of milk bottles from doorsteps on Hollow Lane corner, smashing them and placing the pieces across the highway along with brickends. Two boys had actually been see committing this offence, it was stated.

The council agreed to accept Messrs. Williscroft's estimate for replacement and repairs to wickets, etc., along the footpath from the Pinfold to the Trent Valley.

Councillor L. Mellor stated that across the plain inspected the stile from Stockwell Heath, and found no improvement. It was decided to press for the necessary work to be done.

Members expressed satisfaction on hearing that the County Roads and Bridges Committee would have the bridge near Parchfields Farm attended to as soon as possible. TIMES 17/2/62

COLTON

MOTHERS' UNION. — Colton Mothers' Union and friends had their November meeting at Little Hay Manor Farm on Tuesday afternoon, by invitation of their enrolling member, Mrs. J. L. Taylor. The Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, conducted a short service during which silence was observed in memory of Mrs. Ethell Goodin, who had been enrolling member from January, 1946, to June, 1956, and of Mrs. Jane Hardcastle, Colton's oldest M.U. member. A letter was read from the Rev. H. H. Goodin, thanking members for their wreath and sympathy. Following this Mr. J. A. Best showed Mrs. Taylor's film slides of her recent visit to Persia. Mrs. I. Preston extended members' thanks to Mrs. Taylor and Mr. Best for their kindness.

YOUTH CLUB.—At Colton Youth Club on Tuesday evening, a table tennis match was played, the Village Hall entertainment committee having challenge the Youth Club to meet them. In singles the results were: Mr. M. Pomlett 2, Edna Lewis 1; Mr D. C. Schmielgelow 1, Jim Brown 2; Mr. J. C. Price 1, Dennis Hibbs 2; Mr. Ian Bingham 0, Tony Jones 2. Doubles: Dennis Hibbs and Tony Jones v Mr. Schmiegelow and Mr. Pomlett 2. Results: Youth Club 3 games: Entertainment Committee 2 games.

Colton's Remembrance Sunday commemoration began with a procession of the clergy and choir from St. Mary's Church to the War Memorial for a service conducted by the Rev. A. S. Towlson (rector), assisted by Mr. D. E. Waters.

There they were joined by members of village organisations, including the Parish Council, the Mothers' Union, Women's Institute, Produce Guild and Youth

MEMORIAL TO CHURCH WORKER

TIMES 1/12/62

Window dedicated at Colton Church

Mercury 30th/12/62

A service which will long be remembered took place on Sunday morning at Colton Church, when the Cooper Memorial Window was dedicated by the Rector, Rev. A. S. Towlson.

The window is the gift of Mrs. Alice Cooper and her daughters, Miss Marjorie Cooper and Miss Dorothy Cooper, in memory of Mr. Frank William Cooper, who had been Parish Clerk of the Church from 1949 until he died in May, 1961, aged 60 years. The window, a beautiful work of art, is installed in the Baptistry.

Two Lay Readers took part in the service, Mr. D. E. Waters, Headmaster of Colton School, and Mr. Frank Day (a retired Headmaster) and life long friend of Mr. Cooper.

The first part of the dedication took place at the Chancel steps, when Mrs. Cooper, with her daughters on either side, formally made the request that the Rector accept the gift. The Rector committed the same into the care of the Churchwardens, Mr. W. Williscroft and Mr. J. Tittensor, who accepted the charge. The Rector also requested the Clerk, Mr. A. I. D. Collins to exhibit the Faculty giving permission for the replacement of the Baptistry window.

The Rector, Choir, Lay Readers, Churchwardens, the Cooper family and Clerk went in procession to the new window for remainder of the dedication.

In his address, the Rector spoke of the new window, and of the gratefulness felt to those who in generosity of heart had given this gift of priceless beauty.

Mrs. A. Cooper and her tw daughters with the Rector, th Rev. A. S. Towlson, during th dedication of the new baptistr window in memory of the lat Mr. F. W. Cooper.

THE dedication of a new stained-glass window in Colton Church on Sunday morning was a service which will go down in the history of the church and be long remembered by all present. The window is the gift of Mrs. Alice Cooper and her daughters, the Misses Marjorie and Dorothy Cooper, in memory of their father.

Mr. Frank William Cooper had been parish clerk from 1949 to 1961, when he died at the age of 60. His father before him, Mr. William Ezra Cooper, had been clerk for 10 years, and it was in his memory that the late Mr. Cooper had the electric organ blower installed.

This latest embellishment of the church by the Cooper family is a single-light baptistry window of hand-made glass executed in Old English style, in keeping with the church, by a London artist and architect, Mr. A. E. Buss.

Mr. Buss has become famous for the many stained glass windows which he makes for his firm. He recently completed one for St. Matthew's Church, Walsall. It was only attendance at Ramsgate for the dedication of a Dunkirk window that prevented him coming to Colton last week-end, for he often visits the Rugeley district. Mr. B. Rummey, of Tunnel House, Armitage, is his father-in-law.

D. E. Waters, headmaster of the Church School, and Mr. F. Day, a retired headmaster. He was a lifelong friend of Mr. Cooper, an old boy of Colton School and Rugeley Grammar School, and a choirboy along with Mr. Cooper.

After a hymn Mrs. Cooper and her daughters formally made the request to the rector to accept the gift, at the chancel steps. The rector committed the gift to the care of the churchwardens, Mr. M. Williscroft and Mr. J. Tittensor.

In his address, the rector spoke of the window and of the gratefulness felt to those who, in generosity of heart, had given "this gift of priceless beauty." It was natural, he said, that in a baptistry the window should depict the Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist. The sower was the symbol of the spreading of the Word of God on earth. At the top of the design was the open book, the "Word of God," and the picture of St. Mary the Virgin Church, Colton, with its grounds and the brook.

The grapes and corn, he pointed out, were a symbol of Holy Communion, and the sun, moon and stars depicted the Creation of the heavens and earth. The ship was the artist's trade mark, and the beehive and bees were a symbol of those who work together in the Church.

Nancy Lady Bagot was among the gathering who saw Mr. G. F. Upton, an ex-Serviceman, lay the Parish Council's wreath at **Colton.** The Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, and the choir walked from the church to the War Memorial, where they were joined by the Mothers' Union, parish councillors Produce Guild members, Women's Institute and Youth Club representatives. A short service was conducted by the Rector and Mr. D. E. Waters, culminating in the two minutes' silence. Afterwards the procession re-formed for the return journey to the church, headed by the choir, lay reader, churchwardens, the Rector and the Mothers' Union The Mothers' Union banner, was borne by Mrs. J. L. Taylor, enrolling member, who was escorted by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft and Miss Ellen Rotchell SENTINEL

29/11/62

COLTON

MOTHERS' UNION. — Colton Mothers' Union and friends had their November meeting at Littler Hay Manor Farm on Tuesday afternoon, by invitation of their enrolling member, Mrs. J. L. Taylor. The Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, conducted a short service during which silence was observed in memory of Mrs. Ethell Goodin, who had been enrolling member from January, 1946, to June, 1956, and of Mrs. Jane Hardcastle, Colton's oldest M.U. member. A letter was read from the Rev. H. H. Goodin, thanking members for their wreath and sympathy. Following this Mr. J. A. Best showed Mrs. Taylor's film slides of her recent visit to Persia. Mrs. I. Preston extended members' thanks to Mrs. Taylor and Mr. Best for their kindness.

YOUTH CLUB.—At Colton Youth Club on Tuesday evening, a table tennis match was played, the Village Hall entertainment committee having challenge the Youth Club to meet

golden wedding couple

Sentinel 16/11/62

Mr. and Mrs. Walter John (Bob) Myatt, of Browns Row (now known as 79, High-street, Colton, celebrated their golden wedding on Friday.

They were married at St. Mary's Church, Colton, by the Rev. F. P. Parker, on November .9th, 1912.

Mrs. Myatt, who is 72, was Miss Mary Ann Whitehouse, of Armitage, but she had lived at Bank Top, Colton, and attended Colton School till the age of eight. Mr

28 years. He was employed by the Roads and Bridges department of the County Council for 25 years (including four years as foreman) till obliged to retire for health reasons six years ago.

Mr. Myatt was a keen footballer in his younger days. As a lad he walked to Rugeley to play for Collins Bible Class, next he joined Brereton St. Michael's. Then followed 12 seasons without a break playing for Rugeley Town and Rugeley Albion. After this he joined Colton St. Mary's and also played for the Rid-

COLTON

7/12/62

QUIZ. — Youth Club members challenged members of the entertainment committee of Colton Village Hall to a game of Criss-Cross Quiz last week. Mr. D. E. Waters, club leader, was question master and Dennis Hibbs scorekeeper. Members of the entertainment committee (who won by 200 points to 180) taking part were Mr. D. C. Schmiegelow, Mr. I. W. Bigham, Mr. M. Pomlett, Mr. J. C. Price, Miss D. A. Cooper, Mrs. F. E. Hardcastle, Mrs. M. Bigham and Mrs. P. M. Buckley. Youth club members, Gordon Waring, Tony Jones, Jim Brown, Barry Preston, Eileen Marshall, Ruth Ravenscroft, Christine Jones and Sylvia Goodall. Mr. Waters announced that the entertainment committee intended to challenge the Youth club to a table tennis match.

REMEMBRANCE. — Fortunately weather permitted arrangements for Remembrance Sunday to proceed as planned. After meeting at the church the rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson and the choir, walked to the War Memorial where they were joined by members of various organisations, Mothers Union, all parish councillors, a few Produce Guild, and Women's Institute members, and one or two Youth Club members. A short service was conducted by the rector and Mr. D. E. Waters and the silence was observed. The parish council's wreath was laid by Councillor G. F. Upton. Afterwards a procession was formed for the return journey to the church for a short Parish Communion service. The procession was headed by the choir, lay reader, church wardens, and the rector. Next came the Mothers Union banner, Mrs. J. L. Taylor, enrolling member, being the bearer, with Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft and Miss Ellen Rotchell as escorts. Nancy Lady Bagot attended both the act of remembrance at the memorial and the service at the church.

PARISH COUNCIL.—A meeting of Colton Parish Council was held in the Reading Room. The chairman, Mr. A. N. Felton, presided. Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed and various matters were discussed. Regarding the public footpath by the Rydal it was reported that this matter is now settled in a satisfactory way and that Mr. G. W. Cooper accepts responsibility. The bridge along the brook side appears to have been repaired, but as regards the bridge at Parchfields there was nothing further to report. Mr. F. Hardcastle moved a resolution that a further letter be sent pressing for action in this matter. Regarding the grading of the small area of ground by the brook bridge, there is as yet nothing further to report. An inspection of the nine wickets on the public footpath leading from the Pinfold to the Trent Valley has been made and it was stated that several of these need new wickets or hanging posts, or extensive repairs. Some of the damage to these wickets is due to vandalism. A report regarding the findings of the judges in the best-kept village competition was read, and it was stated that the certificate awarded to Colton had not as yet been received. The chairman said Mrs. M. S. Toy was making inquiries as to the possibility of this being presented at the Produce Guild whist drive on November 30th. Mr. Felton said the signpost at Stonyford had been attended to. It was decided to write to Lichfield R.D.C. regarding the bend in the road by the cattle pens at the Trent Valley, stressing the danger at this point. A letter from the county council roads and bridges department stated that the question of Bellamour Corner would be reviewed in a year. A letter was read from the P.C.C., regarding the service at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday. It was agreed that a wreath at members' expense be obtained, and that as many members as possible would attend. Mr. Hardcastle remarked on vandalism on condemned property in the village, which was making more of an eyesore of these empty houses. He moved a resolution that a letter be sent to the R.D.C., asking if pressure could be made to expedite demolition of these houses. Great concern was expressed at long delay in the matter of improvements at the village

COLTON 22/11/62

...NG.—The first meeting of ... for the 1963 show was ... Hamley Lodge. Mr. J. H. To... agreed to take office as chair... further year, as did Mrs. ... M Ravenscroft as secretary, and ... Ivy Preston, treasurer. The ... members of the committee ... Mr. G. E. D. Atkin (senior), ... D. M. Jones, Mr. W. C. Pres... ..., Mr. D. W. Garwood, Mr. ... Devall, Mr. P. A. Preston and ... Lilian Jackson. The schedules ... rules were discussed and were ... advisable, revised. Several ... regarding judges and the ... were put forward for the ... attention, the date of the ... to be August 24th.

FUNERAL.—The funeral of the ... Mrs Jane Hardcastle took place ... Colton St. Mary's Church, on ... conducted by the rector, ... Rev. A. S. Towlson. The ... was Mrs. G. E. Finnemore. ... were: Mr. and Mrs. W. ... daughter and son-in-law; ... and Mrs. F. Hardcastle son ... daughter-in-law; Mrs. W. Fol... daughter; Mr. and Mrs. W. ... daughter and son-in-law; Mr. ... Mrs J. H. Shipley daughter and ... Mr. and Mrs. K. H. ... daughter and son-in-law; Mrs. ... sister. Mr. C. Preston, Mr. ... Mrs. A. V. Hardcastle, Mrs. K. ... Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Walker, ... R. Follows, Mr. and Mrs. J. ... Mrs. R. Matthews, Mr. and ... J. Dix, Mr. T. Shipley, Mr. ... Hardcastle and Miss Christine ... grand children. Mrs. V. ... Mr Brian Cunliffe, Mrs. J. ... nephews and nieces. Others ... including: Mrs. F. Myatt, ... Burns, Mrs. J. L. Taylor, ... Mellor, Mr. D. E. Waters, ... and Mrs. R. Morrall, Mrs. F. ... and Miss D. A. Cooper, Mr. and ... C. J. Ravenscroft, and the ... R. B. and G. N. Ravenscroft, ... E. Rotchell, Miss Elsie Myatt, ... S. Parr, Mrs. C. Hodgkiss, ... L. Bettson, Mrs. A. L. Cooper, ... A. Griffin, Mrs. A. Allerton, ... and Mrs. A. I. D. Collins, Mr. ... H. Norman, Mrs. P. W. ... Mr. and Mrs. F. S. ... Miss Joyce Dolman. ... service entered and left the ... a guard of honour was ... Mothers Union members, ... a wreath. Mrs. Hard... died on the eve of her ... Tuesday having been their ... member.

... The November meeting of ... Women's Institute took place ... Reading Room, the president, ... Preston, presiding. After the ... Jerusalem, minutes of the ... meeting were read and con... Visitors welcomed to the ... Mrs. E. C. Toye, ... Sitting Mill W.I. and ... Ravenscroft. Mrs. N. ... members for sympathy, ... and attendance at her ... (Mrs. C. A. Tooley) funeral ... It was agreed to arrange a ... in February in support of ... Freedom from Hunger Cam... A further session of handi... classes will commence in the ... year. Mrs. M. Bigham, the ... representative on the entertain... committee announced two ... in the near future. Changes in ... show schedule were announced, ... members urged to get busy with ... handicraft section. The visiting ... was Mrs. Craig, a represen... from the county health office, ... gave a talk illustrated by film ... "Care of the Feet." A ... of Mrs. Craig for her ... was given on members behalf ... Mrs. I. R. Brown. Mrs. Craig ... judged the competition for an ... photograph. Mrs. L. Jackson ... Tea hostesses were ... Mrs. H. A. Williscroft, ... Mrs. C. N. L. Williscroft. The ... was in charge of Miss E. ... and the social time "The ... from newspaper done ... was won by Mrs. P. M. ... The president reminded ... of the Christmas gift stall ...

Show Committee Meeting

The first meeting of the Committee for the 1963 Colton Show was held at Hamley Lodge. Mr. J. H. Toy agreed to take office as chairman for a further year, as did Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft as secretary, and Mrs. Ivy Preston, treasurer. The other members of the committee are Mr. G. E. D. Atkin (senior), Mrs. D. M. Jones, Mr. W. C. Preston, Mr. D. W. Garwood, Mr. Leslie Devall, Mr. P. A. Preston and Mrs. Lilian Jackson. The schedules and rules were discussed and were thought advisable, revised. Several ideas regarding judges and the classes were put forward for the secretary's attention, the date of the show to be August 24th.

WEDDING 24/11/62

MR. and Mrs. Walter John (Bob) Myatt, of Browns Row (now known as 79, High Street), Colton, celebrated their Golden Wedding on Friday. They were married at St. Mary's Church, Colton, by the Rev. F. P. Parker, on November 9, 1912.

Mrs. Myatt, who is 72, was Miss Mary Ann Whitehouse, of Armitage, but she had lived at Bank Top, Colton, and attended Colton School till the age of eight. Mr Myatt, aged 73, was born in the cottage they still live in, and says he does not wish to live anywhere else.

His first job was with Henry Blunn & Co. (the old Tin works) at Trent Valley, where he stayed for 28 years. He then went to the Roads and Bridges department of Staffordshire County Council, where he worked for 25 years till obliged for health reasons to retire six years since having been a foreman for four years.

Mr. Myatt was a keen footballer in his younger days—as a lad he walked to Rugeley to play for Collins Bible Class; next he joined Brereton St. Michael's. Then followed 12 seasons without a break playing for Rugeley Town and Rugeley Albion. After this he joined Colton St. Mary's and also played for Ridware United and Abbots Bromley teams. Mr. Myatt is justly proud of his collection of medals, awarded at various times in his football career.

Mrs. Myatt thought nothing of walking some number of miles (with a child in a push chair) to watch him play.

Mr. and Mrs. Myatt have a family of three daughters and a son; they are Mrs. Vera Collins, of Colton; Mrs. Nellie Southwell, of Brereton; Mrs. Lilian Curtis of Colton; and Mr. Leslie Myatt also of Colton; and they have eleven grandchildren.

A family celebration party was held in the "Greyhound" club room.

M.U. GUARD OF HONOUR

At Colton funeral of oldest member

A guard of honour of members of Colton Mothers' Union was formed for the funeral at St. Mary's Church, Colton, of Mrs. Jane Hardcastle, the oldest member, who died on the eve of her 85th birthday.

The service was conducted by the Rector (the Rev. A. S. Towlson), the organist being Mrs. G. E. Finnemore.

Mourners were:—Mrs. and Mrs. W. Preston (son-in-law and daughter), Mr. and Mrs. F. Hardcastle (son and daughter-in-law), Mrs. W. Follows (daughter), Mr. and Mrs W. Eaton (son-in-law and daughter), Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Shipley, Mr. and Mrs. K. H. Leeke (sons-in-law and daughters), Mrs. S. Judson (sister), Mr. C. Preston, Mr. and Mrs. A. V. Hardcastle, Mrs. K. Herbert, Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Walker, Mr. R. Follows, Mr. and Mrs. J. Clarke, Mrs. R. Matthews, Mr. and Mrs. J. Dix, Mr. T. Shipley, Mr. M. Hardcastle and Miss Christine Leeke (grandchildren), Mrs. V. Bryan, Mr. Brian Cunliffe, Mrs. J. Cunliffe (nephews and nieces), Mrs F. Myatt, Miss C. Burns, Mrs. J. L. Taylor, Mr. Luke Mellor, Mr. D. E. Walters, Mr. and Mrs R. Morrall, Mrs. F. W. Cooper, Miss D. A. Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Rovenscroft, Miss R. B. Ravenscroft, Miss G. N. Ravenscroft, Miss E. Rotchell, Miss Elsie Myatt, Mrs. S. Parr, Mrs C. Hodgkiss, Mrs. L. Bettson, Mrs. A. L. Cooper, Mrs. E. Griffin, Mrs. A. Allerton, Mr. and Mrs. A. I. D. Collins, Mr. R. H. Norman, Mrs. P. W. Westthorpe, Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Knight (Norton), Miss Joyce Dolman.

As the coffin entered and left the church a guard of honour was formed by Mothers Union members, who placed a wreath. Mrs. Hardcastle died on the eve of her 85th birthday having been their oldest member.

COLTON

Fortunately weather permitted arrangements for Remembrance Sunday at Colton to proceed as planned. After meeting at the Church, the Rector Rev. A. S. Towlson, and the choir walked to the War Memorial where they were joined by members of various organisations, Mothers' Union, all Parish Councillors, a few Produce Guild, and W.I. members, and one or two youth club members.

A short service was conducted by the Rector and Mr. D. E. Waters, and the silence was observed. The Parish Council's wreath was laid by Cllr. G. F. Upton. Afterwards a procession was formed for the return journey to the Church for a short Parish Communion service.

The procession was headed by the choir, Lay Reader, Churchwardens, and the Rector, next came the Mothers' Union banner, Mrs. J. L. Taylor (Enrolling Member) being the bearer, with Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft and Miss Ellen Rotchell as escorts. Nancy Lady Bagot attended both the act of remembrance at the Memorial and the service at the Church.

Colton Table Tennis

At Colton Youth Club a table tennis match was played, the Village Hall Entertainment Committee having challenged the Youth Club to meet them. In singles the results were:- Mr. M. Pomlett 2, Edna Lycett 1; Mr. D. C. Schmiegelow 1, Jim Brown 2; Mr. J. C. Price 1, Dennis Hibbs 2; Mr. Ian Bigham 0, Tony Jones 2.

Doubles:- Dennis Hibbs and Tony Jones 0, Mr. Schmiegelow and Mr. Pomlett 2.

Result, Youth Club 3 games; Entertainment Committee 2 games.

Colton funeral

The funeral of Mrs. Jane Hardcastle took place at Colton St Mary's Church, on Saturday afternoon, conducted by the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson the organist being Mrs. G. E Finnemore.

Mourners were: Mr. and Mrs W. Preston (daughter and son-in law); Mr. and Mrs. F. Hardcastle (son and daughter-in-law) Mrs. W. Follows (daughter); Mr and Mrs. W. Eaton (daughter and son-in-law); Mr. and Mrs. J H. Shipley (daughter and son-in law); Mr. and Mrs. K. H. Leeke (daughter and son-in-law); Mrs S. Judson (sister).

Mr. C. Preston, Mr. and Mrs A. V. Hardcastle, Mrs. K. Herbert, Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Walker Mr. R. Follows, Mr. and Mrs. J Clarke, Mrs. R. Matthews, Mr and Mrs. J. Dix, Mr. T. Shipley Mr. M. Hardcastle and Miss Christine Leeke (grandchildren) Mrs. V. Bryan, Mr. Brian Cunliffe, Mrs. J. Cunliffe (nephews and nieces).

Others attending included:— Mrs. F. Myatt, Miss C. Burns Mrs. J. L. Taylor, Mr. Luke Mellor, Mr. D. E. Waters, Mr and Mrs. R. Morrall, Mrs. F. W and Miss D. A. Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Ravenscroft and the Misses R. B. and G.N. Ravenscroft, Miss E. Rotchell, Miss Elsie Myatt, Mrs. S. Parr, Mrs C. Hodgkiss, Mrs. L. Bettson, Mrs. A. L. Cooper, Mrs. E. Griffin, Mrs. A. Allerton, Mr. and Mrs. A. I. D. Collins, Mr. R. H. Norman, Mrs. P. W. Westthorpe.

Colton Mothers' Union

Colton Mothers' Union members and friends had their November meeting at Little Hay Manor Farm, by kind invitation of their enrolling member, Mrs. J. L. Taylor. The Rector, Rev. A. S. Towlson, conducted a short service during which silence was observed for Mrs. Ethel Goodin, (who had been enrolling member

COLTON

PARISH COUNCIL.— Concern was expressed at the monthly meeting of Colton Parish Council over the long delay in the matter of improvements at the village school; also about vandalism at condemned property in the village—vandalism which was turning the empty houses into more of an eyesore. It was resolved that the R.D.C. be asked to do whatever they can to bring about the demolition of these houses.

HARVEST SUPPER. — An enjoyable evening was spent by members of the Colton Village Produce Guild—with Mr. and Mrs. Denis Whittaker as guests—at their harvest supper, held in the Reading Room, the Chairman (Mr. J. H. Toy) presiding. Following an excellent meal, prepared by members, the company watched local films, shown by Mr. S. J. Timmins. Mr. Jack Brown arranged a few games and dancing. Competition for a Dundee cake given by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft (who organised the competition) and a box of chocolates given by Mrs. C. M. Sanders, were won by Mr. Toy and Mr. Timmins respectively. The room had been decorated with flowers, berries and corn.

COLLECTION RESULT. — The recent house-to-house collection in Colton parish for the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen raised £7 1s. The collectors were Mrs. Ivy Preston and Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft (Auxiliary Secretary) who organised the effort.

TIDY VILLAGE AWARD

The certificate won by Colton in Staffordshire's 1962 Best Kept Villages competition was presented to the chairman of the best kept village committee, Mrs. S. Toy, at a whist drive in the village school on Friday evening.

Colton were joint winners with Anslow in the Easter "E" region's small villages section.

The certificate was presented by Miss E. C. Moat, of Penkridge, and also present was Mr. D. M. Gibb, secretary to Staffordshire Rural Community Council. They were both introduced by the chairman of the parish council, Councillor A. N. Felton.

The whist drive was organised by the village produce guild. Mr. P. W. Westhorpe was M.C. and prizes were presented by Mrs. G. Hampson to the following: Mrs. Aspley, Mr. E. Williams, Mrs. E. Preston, Mr. [illegible] Jenkins.

COLTON

The November meeting of Colton W.I. took place in the Reading Room, the President Mrs. I. Preston presiding. Visitors welcomed were Mrs. E. C. Toye, Secretary to Slitting Mill W.I., and Miss Ruth Ravenscroft. Mrs. N. Jones thanked members for sympathy at her Mother's (Mrs. C. A. Tooley) funeral service. It was agreed to arrange a whist drive in February in support of the Freedom from Hunger campaign. A further session of handicraft classes will commence in the new year. Changes in the show schedule were announced, and members urged to get busy with the handicraft section. The visiting speaker was Mrs. Craig a representative from the County Health Officer, who gave an instructive talk illustrated by film slides, on 'Care of the feet.' Mrs. I. R. Brown thanked her. Mrs.

BEST-KEPT PRIZE VILLAGE

e picture postcard village that the small village area awards in village competition this year—is rom vandals.

uths are making the village unsightly orth of damage.

Their targets are empty houses. Most of these are due for demolition, and some are under repair.

Now, the local parish council is pressing Lichfield Rural Council to ask owners of property scheduled for demolition to go into action and tear down the empty houses.

Councillor Fred Hardcastle, chairman of the parish council and a member of the Lichfield Council, told the Advertiser: "This is the only answer. Whenever there is temptation, youth takes advantage.

'Patrol'

"I am loath to have to ask the police to patrol," he added, "but broken windows and other damage to the houses makes the villages look unsightly. It will get to the stage where we will have to call the police unless the houses—there are about 10—are knocked down."

Mr. Ken Morrall, of Colton Mill Farm, is having a house in High Street renovated. It is empty—and where there were once windows they are blacked out by pieces of hardboard. Said Mr. Morrall: "Every window was broken when the house was left empty. I had to put the boards up to stop the damage, and it has worked."

In Brown's Row, Colton, stand five houses—only one is occupied. In it live Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Myatt, aged 73 and 72. The surrounding houses all show the mark of the vandals—broken windows. Said Mrs. Myatt: "We don't know much about the future of the Row, but this is not very pleasant."

'Terrible'

Mr and Mrs. F. Knight, of 10 High Street, described the damage as "terrible." They have a special fear, for a few hundred yards away workmen are building them a new bungalow. Said Mrs. Knight: "I am afraid they might turn their attentions to the new place."

Bank House, High Street, is another house through which the vandals have passed. Doors have been forced and windows broken. Mrs. J. Wright, who lives in High Street, said: "My husband has chased four lads away from there—and he got some lip. It was left in a bad condition."

Her next door neighbour, Mrs. Eaton, who lived in Bank House for 30 years before leaving a few months ago, said: "I left that place for anyone to move in, as I was told whether or not it was to be knocked down. But the place has been ransacked."

A spokesman for Lichfield Rural Council said last week: "We have...

Attendance at the December meeting of Colton Mothers Union was not as good as usual, but those who were able to attend spent a pleasant afternoon. Mrs J. L. Taylor (enrolling member) welcomed Mr. D. E. Waters, who conducted a short service and played a tape recording of the village schoolchildren singing "Away in a manger" He followed this with records of...

BANK. HOUSE.

This is only some of the damage caused by the vandals — broken windows

15/11/62.

Golden day smiles from 'Bob' and his wife, Mary Ann

Old Bob lived for golden day

John Blanken Report

SIX years ago when poor health forced Mr 'Bob' Myatt to retire, his wife Mary was

Seventy-three year old "Bob" — real name Walter John — lives at Brown's Row, Colton, with his 72 year-old wife.

'Cheated'

CONSERVATIVE ACTIVITY AT COLTON

Times 21/11/62

The Colton branch of the Lichfield and Tamworth Conservative and Unionist Association was revived at a meeting held in the Reading Room on Thursday of last week.

The chairman, Mr. W. J. Jones, then remarked that a branch was first formed 10 years ago and since then £200 had been forwarded to Lichfield.

Mr. Jones thanked all who had been so helpful and co-operative. He also spoke of the great loss suffered by the death of Mr. E. S. Blore, who had been a keen supporter of the Conservative cause.

Pointing out that the branch needed re-organising, Mr. Jones suggested that a function should be organised in order to work up support for the next General Election.

Present at the meeting were Mr. Norman Slipper, divisional agent, Dr. F. R. Roberts, prospective Parliamentary candidate, Mr. Peter Brown, chairman, and Mr. G. P. Fathers, treasurer.

Officers elected were: President, Mr. Jones; chairman, Mr. J. C. Price; vice-chairman, Mr. I. W. Bigham; secretary, Mrs. P. W. Westhorpe; t...

COLTON PREPARES FOR 1963 SHOW

The first meeting of the Colton Show Committee was held at Hamley Lodge when ideas were put forward for the 1963 show to be held on August 24. Mr. J. H. Tew, (chairman)...

THE ADVERTISER, 6/12/62

COLTON

PARISH COUNCIL.—At a meeting of Colton Parish Council, presided over by the chairman, Mr. A. [illegible] Felton, members were told that [illegible] Rural Council had sent [illegible] to the owners of empty [illegible] the village which have [illegible] target of vandalism. The [illegible] the owners to take steps [illegible] the property. Coun. [illegible] Hardcastle said that he [illegible] the owners had hoped [illegible] one of the houses, but [illegible] by vandals had made it [illegible]. Apart from broken [illegible] doors and shelves had [illegible] taken down and even the [illegible] tiles were being pulled down. [illegible] agreed to accept an estimate [illegible] replacement and repairs to [illegible] along the public footpath [illegible] from the Pinfold to the Trent [illegible]. Regarding the stile across [illegible] to Forge House from Stock[illegible], Councillor Luke Mellor [illegible] he had inspected this [illegible] and there was no improve[illegible]. It was agreed to send a [illegible] for it to be put right. [illegible] County Roads and Bridges [illegible] said in a letter that [illegible] by Parch Fields Dairy [illegible] was going to be attended to [illegible] as possible. The certificate [illegible] the "best kept village" com[illegible] was passed round, and it [illegible] announced that it was to be [illegible] at the Village Produce [illegible] whist drive. There was a [illegible] discussion about the present [illegible] wave of vandalism in the [illegible]. It has become worse in [illegible] the last two or three weeks. As well as damage to empty property, [illegible] the public telephone box had been damaged, street lights broken, and [illegible] fences cut. Elderly people [illegible] were getting afraid to go out. One [illegible] serious affair was when empty [illegible] bottles were taken from doors [illegible] in the Hollow Lane corner, smashed [illegible] and the glass scattered with brick [illegible] dust across the road. It was said [illegible] that such things could well have [illegible] been the cause of accidents. It [illegible] was agreed that the Parish Council [illegible] should write to the police asking [illegible] for action to be taken.

[illegible]—A whist drive took [illegible] in the village school on [illegible] promoted by the Village [illegible] Guild for their funds. Mr. [illegible] Winthorpe was the M.C. and [illegible] were presented by Mrs. G. [illegible] to Mrs. Aspley, Mr. E. [illegible] Mrs. E. Preston, Mr. A. [illegible] Mrs. L. Jenkins, Mrs. K. [illegible] Mrs. J. Cowlishaw, Mr. [illegible] Mrs. K. Martin, Mr. J. [illegible] K. Horton, Mr. Fern, [illegible] Mrs. J. W. Hooley, [illegible] Mrs. Jenkins, and Mr. [illegible]. The competition for [illegible] was won by Mr. J. H. [illegible]. During the interval Mr. [illegible] Felton, formerly chairman of the parish council, introduced [illegible] Gibb, secretary to the [illegible] Community Council. Mr. [illegible] introduced Miss E. C. [illegible] of Penkridge who presented [illegible] won in the 'Best-[illegible]' competition to Mrs. [illegible], chairman of the 'Best-[illegible]' committee. Mr. J. H. [illegible] chairman thanked Miss [illegible] and Mr. Gibb, for coming [illegible] to present the certificates.

TIMES 21/12/62

STALL RAISES RECORD FEE

[illegible] stall at the Decem[illegible] of Colton W.I. raised [illegible] over £7. Mrs. I. [illegible] presided at the [illegible] in the Reading Room [illegible] the President of [illegible] Mrs. J. T. G. [illegible]

[illegible] to attend parties [illegible] from Slitting Mill, [illegible] Kingstone W.I.. [illegible] decided to hold a party at [illegible]. [illegible] was organised [illegible] Jones and members [illegible]. [illegible] of the stall were [illegible] Sargeant, D. M.

TIMES 29/12/62

above are pupils of res Secondary School, who gave a concert in ol before they broke up Christmas holiday. The me was one of excep- erit, ranging from carols pts from Gilbert and operas and Handel's

COLTON

MOTHERS' UNION—Attendance at the December meeting of Colton Mothers Union was somewhat poor, nevertheless, those who did attend spent a pleasant afternoon. Mrs. J. L. Taylor, enrolling member, welcomed Mr. E Waters, who conducted a short service and played a tape recording of the Village School pupils singing 'Away in a Manger'. He invited members to join in. Following this Mr. Waters played records of typical Christmas music, including part of 'The Messiah'. Mrs B M Ravenscroft expressed members thanks to Mr. Waters. and tea was attended to by Miss E. Rotchell and Mrs. E Griffin.

SCHOOL PARTY.—The pupils of the Village School had their annual Christmas party in the school when a very enjoyable time was spent. Father Christmas was in attendance

YOUTH CLUB.—The youth club also have had a small Christmas social evening by way of a party and they also had the satisfaction of seeing the elderly people's pleasure at their gifts of coal, which club members have worked to provide.

CAROL SERVICE.— Carol service at St. Mary's Church, Colton, was held on the last Sunday in 1962. Attendance was not as good as usual due to the very severe weather. Readers of lessons represented various organisations in the village, they were Mr. C. M. Boycott the Rector (Rev. A. S Towlson). Mrs J L Taylor, Miss Ruth Ravenscroft, Mr. M. Pomlett, and Mr. D. E. Waters

PARTY.— Children of Colton

Colton, the Rev. nd Mrs. Towlson the St. Mary's bove) on Wed- m are Ian Mar- amble, who won ancy hat com- children joined ompetitions and party tea. Each from Father tmas.

Homes aided by Colton carols and play

TIMES 21/12/62

Pupils of Colton St. Mary's Church School's annual carol service and nativity play took place at Colton church on Friday.

The service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson and Mrs. D. R. Shaw was the organist. Lessons were read by Philip Deacon, June Sargeant, Anthony Smith and Susan Sparkes.

The play "The City of David" was performed by the infants class and taking part were: stallholders, Karen Upton, Sandra [illegible], Brenda Norman; shep-

ON GETS VILLAGE WARD

TIMES 29/12/62

[illegible]ate won by Colton in [illegible]s 1962 Best Kept [illegible]etition was presented [illegible]an of the best kept [illegible]ttee, Mrs. S. Toy, at a [illegible] the village school on [illegible]. joint winners with [illegible] Easter "E" region's [illegible] section. [illegible]te was presented by [illegible]t, of Penkridge, and [illegible] as Mr. D. M. Gibb, Staffordshire Rural [illegible]ouncil. They were [illegible] by the chairman of [illegible]ncil, Councillor A. [illegible]

[illegible]ve was organised by [illegible]duce guild. Mr. P. [illegible] was M.C. and prizes by Mrs. G. Hamp[illegible]owing: Mrs. Aspley, [illegible]. Williams, Mrs. E. Preston, Mr. A. N. Felton, Mrs. L. Jenkins, Mrs. K. R. Cooke, Mrs. J. Cowlishaw, Mr. G. Vernon, Mrs. K. Martin, Mr. J. Rollins, Mrs. K. Horton, Mr. Fern, Mrs. Hodgkins, Mrs. J. W. Hooley; Mrs. Jenkins, Mr. F. Hardcastle. The competition for a turkey was won by Mr. J. H. Wright.

COLTON

TROPHY.—A good number of people gathered at the Reading Room, Colton, to see youth club member 18-year-old Dennis Hibbs, of 18 Heath Way, Colton, receive the Whieldon Trophy on behalf of Rugeley Rotary Club, from Mr E. W. Hambridge. Also present from the Rotary Club were Major J. O'Neil and Mr J. Heatherly. Mr Hambridge explained how the trophy was awarded each year to a member of some youth organisation for outstanding work for the community. Mr Fred Hardcastle, chairman of the youth club adult committee, proposed thanks to Mr. Hambridge and his fellow members. Mr D. E. Waters, youth club leader seconding the vote of thanks, said he considered organisations were working more together in the village and drawing in the youth club to help. He asked for volunteers on the adult committee, people who would take an active interest in the club. Mr Waters also thanked all who had shown their interest by [illegible] their evening. Musical

Receiving the Whieldon trophy from Mr. E. W. Hambridge of Rugeley Rotary Club is 18 years-old Dennis Hibbs, of Colton. Also on the picture, (left to right) are Mr. D. E. Waters, Major J. O'Neil and Mr. J. Heatherley.

TIMES 18/12/62

Trophy reward for community service

AT a social evening held in Colton Village Hall on Tuesday evening, 18 years-old Dennis Hibbs, a member of Colton Youth Club, was presented with the Whieldon trophy for his "outstanding work" for the youth club and as a youth representative on the village hall committee.

The presentation was made by Mr. E. W. Hambridge on behalf of the Rotary Club of Rugeley before a gathering of youth club members, representatives of the Colton village hall entertainment committee and the village produce guild. Also present from the youth club were Major J. O'Neil and Mr. J. Heatherley.

Dennis, who lives at 18, Heathway, Colton, had his name put forward with those of other youth club members in the Rugeley district. It was at the suggestion of the village hall committee who recognised Dennis's sterling work on the committee, particularly in organising dances and other entertainments.

Dennis has been the table tennis secretary at Colton youth club for the past two years. He has represented the club at youth members' meetings at Rugeley.

In making the presentation, Mr. Hambridge explained how the trophy was awarded each year to a member of a youth organisation for outstanding work to the community.

The chairman of the youth club's adult committee, Mr. Fred Hardcastle, thanked Mr. Hambridge.

Seconding the vote of thanks, the youth club leader, Mr. D. E. Waters said the village orgnisations were now working together and drawing the youth club members in to help. He asked for volunteers on the club's adult committee, people who would take an active interest in the club.

The remainder of the evening was occupied with dancing and games. A competition for a bottle of port was won by Mr. Tovey. The money from this competition will help to provide gifts for the elderly people and widows in the parish.

Refreshments were given by Mrs. Waters, Mrs. M. E. Hibbs, Mrs. O. G. Upton and Mrs. B. M. [illegible]

Guild's New Year social

TIMES 12/1/63

For the second month in succession weather conditions have been unkind to Colton Village Produce Guild, but whereas December's meeting had to be cancelled because of bad fog, the annual New Year social evening did take place on Thursday.

Attendance was very much down, however, for those who had a distance to travel were not inclined to brave the severe wintry weather.

The Guild chairman, Mr. J. H. Toy, was the M.C. and extended a welcome to all. Mr. Tom Done, of Rugeley was pianist, and Mr. Ben Jackson played the drums.

Mrs. M. S. Toy arranged wall competitions, and various team games were organised by Mr. Toy, Mr. Jack Brown, Miss D. M. Jones, and Miss Ruth Ravenscroft. "Musical hats" was won by Gwendoline Ravenscroft and Stephen Hibbs, and "musical chairs" by Mrs. L. Jackson.

Dancing was popular, the "ballroom waltz" being judged by Mrs. E. R. Thorpe and won by Mrs. M. L. Waters and Mr. Leslie Devall. The "ballroom twist" was won by Gwendoline Ravenscroft and Keith Williscroft.

A competition, organised by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, for a Dundee cake, made and given by Mrs. Toy, was won by Mr. G. E. D. Atkin, senr.

Home-made refreshments were enjoyed. The Guild was grateful to the Village Hall Entertainment Committee, who left the large Christmas tree for decoration.

cuts Colton W.I. attendance

The first meeting of Colton Womens' Institute in 1963, took place in the Reading Room, Mrs. I. Preston, president, presiding. The attendance was affected by the very severe weather.

Arrangements were made for a New Year party, and the whist drive arranged for February 8, in support of the Freedom from Hunger Campaign was discussed. Offers of prizes and refreshments were received.

A film was shown by the husband of a committee member on a journey through Greece and this was very much enjoyed.

W.I.—The December meeting of Colton W.I. was held at the Reading Room. Mrs I. Preston, president, welcomed Mrs J. T. G. Craddock, president of Slitting Mill W.I. Minutes of previous meeting were read and confirmed, invitations accepted from Slitting Mill, Etching Hill, and Kingstone W.I.'s to their New Year parties, and it was decided to hold Colton's party on Jan 16th. A social time was arranged by Miss D. M. Jones, and members also much enjoyed singing carols. The Christmas stall raised a record sum of over £7. In charge of this were Mrs E. M. Sargeant, Mrs D. M. Atkin, and Mrs N. Jones. The competition for a Christmas gift costing not more than 2/6, was won by Mrs Jones, Mrs P. M. Buckley, and Mrs B. E. Spencer. Tea hostesses were Mrs M. C. Harvey, Mrs M. G. Bennett, Mrs C M Sanders, and Mrs M. Bigham. A competition for a bottle of wine, and a tin of biscuits was won by Doreen Atkin, and Mrs Buckley.

CONSERVATIVES.— A meeting was held in the Reading Room for the purpose of "reviving" the Colton branch of Lichfield and Tamworth Conservative and Unionist Association. The chairman, Mr W. J. Jones explained that the branch was formed 10 years ago and that since then over £200 had been forwarded to Lichfield. He thanked all who had helped, and spoke of the regret felt in the loss of Mr. E. S. Blore, a keen supporter. Mr Jones said the branch needed reorganising, and that some effort should be organised for association funds, and to work up support for the next election. In the election of the Colton branch committee, Mr. Jones decliined re-election as chairman, saying he felt that after ten years, he must make way for someone else. However, he accepted office as president. Mr J. C. Price became chairman with Mr. I. W. Bigham as vice-chairman. Mrs P W Westhorpe was re-elected secretary. Treasurer, Mr Fred Hardcastle. The rest of committee, Mrs W J Jones, Mrs I. W. Bigham, Mrs F. Hardcastle, Mrs B. M. Ravenscroft and Mr Leslie Kendrick. Mr Price remarked they would be pleased for any others not present that evening to join the committee. Others present included Mr N. Slipper, agent and secretary, and Dr F R Roberts, prospective parliamentary candidate, who took part in a panel.

ADVERTISER 3/1/63

CAROL SERVICE.— The pupils of Colton St. Mary's Church School had their carol service at the church recently. The service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, and Mrs D. R. Shaw was the organist. Lessons were read by Philip Deacon, June Sargeant, Anthony Smith, and Susan Sparkes. Mrs M. S. Toy's infant class performed a play "The City of David." Taking part—Karen Upton, Sandra Gamble, Brenda Norman, Ian Sparkes, Kevin Waters, Jacqueline Page, Neil Peake, Dawn Kendrick, Anthony Meddings, Dorothy Curtis, Ann Haynes, Angela Taylor, Christopher Grimley, Ursula Hall Stephen Bennett. The Rector spoke of the hard work put into the event by the headmaster, Mr D E Waters, and his staff. Collections were taken for Dr. Barnardo's Homes

ADVERTISER 10/1/63

COLTON

PRODUCE GUILD.— For the second month in succession weather conditions have been unkind to Colton Village Produce Guild, but whereas December's meeting had to be cancelled due to bad fog, the annual New Year's social evening did take place on Thursday evening. The Guild chairman, Mr J H Toy, was the M.C. and extended a welcome to all. Mr Tom Done, of Rugeley, was at the piano, and Mr. Ben Jackson on the drums. Mrs M S. Toy had arranged all competitions, and various team games were organised by Mr Toy. Mr Jack Brown, Miss D. M. Jones, and Miss Ruth Ravenscroft. Musical hats was won by Gwendoline Ravenscroft and Stephen Hibbs, and musical chairs by Mrs L. Jackson. Dancing was popular, the "balloon waltz" being judged by Mrs E. R. Thorpe and won by Mrs M. L. Waters and Mr Leslie Devall, and the "balloon twist" was won by Gwendoline Ravenscroft and Keith Williscroft. The competition, organised by Mrs B. M. Ravenscroft for a Dundee cake, made and given by Mrs Toy, was won by Mr G. E. D. Atkin sr. Home-made refreshments were enjoyed. The Guild was grateful to the village hall entertainment committee who kindly left the large Christmas tree for decoration.

WEDDING.—A wedding of interest to many local people took place in London on Saturday. The bridegroom is a member of Colton parish, Mr William Trevor Preston, elder son of Mr and Mrs Thomas Preston, No. 7 Holding, Blithbury Road, Rugeley. His bride is Miss Vera Langley, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Harry Langley, 146 Darwin Road, South Ealing, London, W.5. The choral ceremony took place at Ealing Broadway Methodist Church. The bride, given away by her father, in a full length gown of white velvet, trimmed with swansdown, and a short train, long veil and crystal coronet. Her bouquet was red and white roses, and freesias. Bridesmaids were Miss Judith Preston (bridegroom's sister) and Miss Pauline Reynolds (bride's cousin). They wee in full-length gowns of red velvet, with head-dresses of white swansdown and satin rosebuds. Their bouquets were white tulips and freesias. The best man was a student friend of the groom Mr Leonard Gibbons, and ushers were Mr Philip Preston (brother of bridegroom) and Mr Michael Reynolds (cousin of bride). The reception was held at the Duke of York Hotel, Great West Road. Fellow students of the bridegroom from his days at Kew Gardens and Reading College of Parks Adminstration, (where Trevor was top student), were present. The mother of bride was in a coffee and cream outfit, and Mrs Preston was in brown, both wore sprays of orchids from Kew Gardens. The bride is employed with a firm of solicitors in London, and the bridegroom is now technical advisor at Ealing Parks. After spending his school days at Colton village school and Rugeley Grammar School he went to Rodbaston to study horticulture, and later after a spell at Wolverhampton Parks he went to Kew Gardens, and then to Reading. Mr and Mrs Trevor Preston were to have spent their honeymoon in Falmouth, but found weather conditions would not allow them to get beyond Salisbury, so they returned to London on Sunday. They are to reside in South Ealing.

W.I.—The first meeting of Colton Women's Institute in 1963, took place in the Reading Room, Mrs. I Preston, president, presiding. Attendance was down due to the very severe weather. Minutes of the Dec. meeting were read and confirmed and a letter was read from Mrs. E. Bennett, thanking members for flowers and good wishes sent on the arrival of twins recently. Arrangements were made for the new year party, and the whist drive arranged for February 8, in support of the Freedom from Hunger Campaign, discussed. Offers of prizes and refreshments were received. A film

BRIDE IN WHITE VELVET

TIMES. 19/1/63

A wedding of interest to many local people took place in London on Saturday. The bridegroom was Mr. William Trevor Preston, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Preston, of No. 7, Holding, Blithbury Road, Rugeley, and his bride was Miss Vera Langley, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Langley, of 146, Darwin Road South Ealing, London, W.5. They were married at Ealing Broadway Methodist Church.

The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a full-length gown of white velvet, trimmed with swansdown, with a short train. Her long veil, surmounted by a crystal coronet, and her bouquet was of red and white roses and freesias.

The bridesmaids were Miss Judith Preston (bridegroom's sister), and Miss Pauline Reynolds (bride's cousin). They wore full-length gowns of red velvet, with head-dresses of white swansdown and satin rosebuds. They chose white tulips and freesias for their bouquets.

The best man was a student friend of the groom, Mr. Leonard Gibbons, and ushers were Mr. Philip Preston (bridegroom's brother), and Mr. Michael Reynolds (bride's cousin).

The reception was held at the Duke of York Hotel on the Great West Road. Fellow students of the groom from his days at Kew Gardens and Reading College of Parks Administration, where he was top student, were present.

The bride is employed with a firm of solicitors in London.

The bridegroom is now technical adviser at Ealing Parks. After spending his schooldays at Colton village school and Rugeley Grammar School, he went to Rodbaston to study horticulture, and later after a spell at Wolverhampton Parks, he went to Kew Gardens and then to Reading.

WHIST DRIVE AIDS HUNGER CAMPAIGN

A whist drive was organised by Colton W.I. in aid of the Freedom from Hunger Campaign. Mr. P. W. Westhorpe was M.C., and Mrs. Pitts presented prizes to Mrs. E. M. Sargeant, Mrs. M. S. Toy, Mrs. I. Preston, Mr. Westhorpe, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft and Mr. G. E. D. Atkin senr.; minitaures, Mrs. Sargeant and Mrs. Toy; travelling prizes, Mrs. Westhorpe and Mrs. R. O. Devall.

The first four prizewinners go forward to a final whist drive at Stafford.

The competition for a parcel of groceries was won by Mrs. Pitts.

COLTON

CLUB DANCE. — Colton Youth Club held a successful dance in the Reading Room on Friday. Music was supplied by the Abbotonian Group and dance prizes were won by Gwendoline Ravenscroft and Carol Wisdom. Mrs. I. V. Collins and Mrs. K. Haynes. A twist competition was enjoyed. A competition for a bottle of sherry was won by Dennis Hibbs, and ovenware by Mrs. A. E. Upton. Adult helpers with refreshments were Mrs.

COLTON

FOR HUNGER CAMPAIGN —A whist drive, held in the local Reading Room, was organised by the Colton Women's Institute in support of the Freedom from Hunger Campaign and the four first prizewinners to go forward to a final whist drive at Stafford, Mr. P. W. Westthorpe was M.C. and Mrs. H. Pitts presented the prizes to: Mrs. E. M. Sargeant (2), Mrs. M. S. Toy (2), Mrs. I. Preston, Mr. Westhorpe, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, Mr. G. E. D. Atkinsen, Mrs. Weethorpe and Mrs. R. O. Devall. The competition for a parcel of groceries was won by Mrs. Pitts. Mrs. Preston (President) extended thanks to all who helped. Sentinel 15/1/63.

PRODUCE GUILD.—At the February meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild held in the Reading Room, members were delighted to have with them Mr. D. M. Gibb (County Secretary) who was welcomed by Mr. J. H. Toy (Chairman) presiding. Following business, all gathered round the fire for an interesting and humorous talk by Mr. Gibb. Giving various hints to make a change at meetings, he said he felt television was taking away the need for social meetings. Stressing what a Guild can do to combat this, Mr. Gibb led a debate "For and against television," and arranged a quiz, ladies versus gents. A vote of thanks to Mr. Gibb was proposed by Miss Mary Preston. Mr. Gibb judged the competition for three hyacinths and awarded points to: 1, Mr. M. Garwood; 2, Mrs. J. Garwood; 3, Miss Jones.

At the February meeting of Colton W.I., held in the Reading Room with Mrs. I. Preston presiding it was announced that only £5 15s. 6d. had been raised at the recent whist drive for the "Freedom from Hunger" campaign. There had been a poor attendance because of the bad weather.

Members were asked to consider a request from the Village Hall Entertainments Committee that the W.I. be responsible for refreshments at the barbecue and fete in June.

The visiting speaker was Mrs. Craig, a County Health Office representative, who spoke on safety in the home. A vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs. M. S. Toy

It was decided once again to sponsor a house-to-house collec-

COLTON

Advertiser 14/2/63

PRODUCE GUILD. — At the February meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild held in the Reading Room, members entertained Mr. D. M. Gibb, county secretary, who was extended a welcome by Mr. J. H. Toy (chairman). Minutes of previous meeting were read and confirmed. A catalogue of miniature silver cups was circulated, it having been decided to award these to winners of challenge cups at the annual show. Miss D. M. Jones (secretary) asked that names of those interested in going to the county bulb show at Whitmore Village Hall on Saturday next, be given in to her, as Colwichc Guild have invited Colton members to share their coach for this journey. Mr. Gibb gave a few details, and Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft mentioned she had tickets for the competitions at this bulb show. The chairman spoke of an idea of his for an inter-guild chrysanthemum (or dahlia) show in the Autumn. It was agreed that the secretary write to the guilds fairly near to Colton and find out if there would be any interest in such a show. It was mentioned that the newly-formed guild at Penkridge was doing very well. Ideas for future outings, and speakers were appealed for, and Mr. Toy mentioned the square-dancing classes and the barn dance to be arranged for donation to Rural Community Council. Following business all heard a talk by Mr. Gibb giving various hints to make a change at meetings. He said he felt television was taking away the need for social meetings and stressed what such a thing as a guild can do to combat this. Mr. Gibb led a debate on "for or against" television, and arranged a quiz — ladies against gents. A vote of thanks on members behalf was proposed by Miss Mary Preston. Mr. Gibb judged the competition for three hyacinths, and awarded points to: 1 Mr. M. Garwood, 2 Mrs. J Garwood, 3 Miss Jones. It was decided to have a competition for four daffodils at the March meeting which is the annual general meeting.

WHIST.—A whist drive was held in the Reading Room organised by the Colton W.I. in support of the Freedom from Hunger Campaign. the four first prizewinners to go forward to a final whist drive at Stafford. Mr. P.. Westthorpe was the MC. and Mrs. H Pitts presented the prizes to Mrs. E M. Sargeant, Mrs M S. Toy, Mrs I. Preston, Mr. Westthorne, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, Mr

Bishop confirms at Colton

TIMES 16/3/63

The Bishop of Stafford, the Right Reverend R. C. Clitherow, confirmed candidate from Colton and Blithfield parishes at St. Mary's Church, Colton on Wednesday. He also confirmed six boys

COLTON Women's Institute held their New Year party in the Reading Room on Wednesday when Mrs. I. Preston presided. Guests included members of Etching Hill and Slitting Mill Women's Institutes, and Mr. J. H. Toy was M.C.

Games were organised by Mr. C. Barham and music for dancing was supplied by Mr. T. Done (piano) and Mr. B. Jackson (drums). Miss Ruth Ravenscroft sang songs, and a competition was won by Mrs. Lowe and Mr. C. S. Jones.

Helpers were thanked by Mrs. Preston, and the evening concluded with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

Colton Guild has plan for autumn show

TIMES 16/2/63

A suggestion that an inter-guild chrysanthemum or dahlia show should be organised by Colton Village Produce Guild in the autumn was made by Mr. J. H. Toy (chairman) at the Guild's February meeting. It was decided that the secretary should seek the views of neighbouring guilds to ascertain if there would be sufficient support for such a show.

Mr. D. M. Gibb (county secretary) was welcomed to the meeting and he led a debate on television, arranged a quiz between the men and the women, and gave a humorous talk which included hints on how to make a change at meetings.

He said he felt that television was taking away the need for social meetings and stressed what a guild could do to combat this.

Miss D. M. Jones (secretary) asked for names of those who would be attending the county bulb show at Whitmore, as they were invited to share a coach with Colwich Guild.

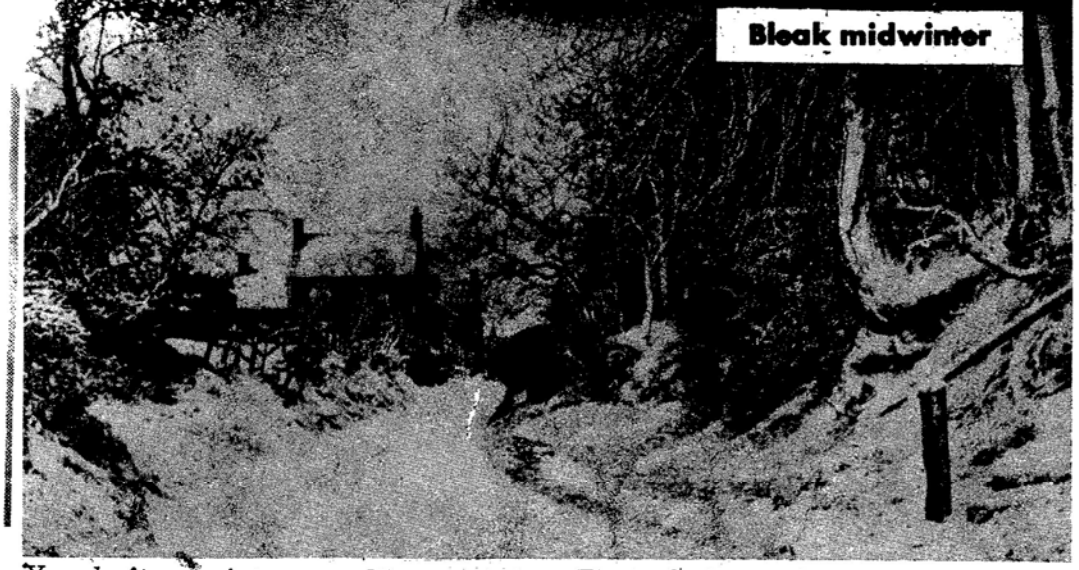
It was decided to award miniature silver cups at the next annual show, and ideas for future outings and speakers were invited.

Mr. Toy mentioned that square dancing classes were in progress, and said the barn dance proceeds would be given as a donation to the Rural Community Council.

Mr. Gibb judged the competition for three hyacinths and awarded points to: 1. Mr. M. Garwood; 2. Mrs. J. Garwood; 3. Miss Jones.

He was thanked by Miss Mary Preston.

As no daffodils were ready for now that evening it was decided to have a competition for four daffodils at the March meeting which would be the annual meet



You don't get winters now like we used to. That's the boast of some old-timers, and here's the picture to prove it. It shows the approach to Colton village half a century ago [illegible]

ADVERTISER 21/2/63

Colton keen on square dancing

TIMES 26/1/63

A remark made after the annual New Year social of Colton Village Produce Guild to the chairman Mr. J. H. Toy, about trying a few lessons in square dancing has borne fruit. Mr. Toy got to "business" at once, and as a result the interest of an encouraging number of people has been aroused.

Lessons under the instructions of Mr. Jack Brown, a committee member of the Guild and well-known for his dancing, will start on Monday, February 4, in the Village School, and follow fortnightly. Mr. Toy's idea, is to hold a barn dance at Easter, with the Reading Room decorated in a suitable way.

It is thought that the proceeds of the barn dance could be the donation of the Guild to the Rural Community Council, but plans are yet to be arranged.

The classes are not in themselves intended to be a money making idea, but a means of enjoyment for anyone interested, old or young, from near and far.

Square dancing at Colton

Square dancing classes in Colton School began with a good attendance of 40. They were introduced by Village Produce Guild chairman Mr. H. H. Toy, who said they wished to keep the charge for the five classes as reasonable as possible and make the subsequent barn dance, shortly after Easter, a money-raising effort.

It is the guild's intention to make a donation to the Staffordshire Rural Community Council from the barn dance and Mr. L. Devall was appointed treasurer.

The next dancing class will be held on Monday.

Now barn dance

IT is good to hear that square dancing at Colton is continuing to prosper, under the supervision of Mr. Jack Brown. Whereas at the first class the attendance was 40, at the following two classes the number was almost doubled. A coachload from Rugeley, sponsored by the Trefoil Guild, had joined in, so Mr. J. H. Toy's brain-wave is proving well worth while.

Colton Village Produce Guild are organising the classes and now find that not only are they covering expenses but they have a little bit left over, which they are putting towards the cost of a grand barn dance which they are to stage on April 19, the Friday in Easter week. This village enterprise on a small scale deserves success.

I hear that realistic barn effects are being thought out for the barn dance. Perhaps Colton's energy can be taken to denote a revival of local interest in dances? Certainly if there is to be a revival it must stem from the villages, where costs are lower than in Rugeley itself. Local organisations are missing the revenue which at one time they obtained from dances.

Produce Guild's good year

There was a good attendance at the meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild, held in the Reading Room, the Chairman (Mr. J. H. Toy) presiding.

The Hon. Secretary (Miss D. M. Jones) reported on the year's activities and the Hon. Treasurer (Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft) stated that despite a heavy year for expenses there would be a credit balance of about £12.

Chosen as the new Committee were: Mr. G. E. D. Atkin, sen., Mr. Leslie Devall, Mr. A. N. Felton, Miss D. M. Jones, Mr. J. F. Peet, Mr. P. A. Preston, Mr. T. Preston, Mrs. B. M. Ravensscroft, Miss Ruth Ravenscroft and Mr. J. H. Toy. Mr. T. Preston (Vice-Chairman for the past two years) was elected as Chairman. Miss Jones again accepted office as Hon. Secretary, and Mrs. Ravenscroft agreed to be Hon Treasurer for another year. Mr. P. A. Preston was elected as Vice-Chairman.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Sutcliffe, of Bromley Wood, gave an interesting show of coloured slides they had taken when living in Kenya, and also gave much information of life there. Mr. and Mrs. Sutcliffe also judged the competition for a bowl of daffodils, awarding points to: 1, Miss Jones; 2, Mrs. E. H. Tabernor; 3, Mrs. Toy. The highest number of points were gained over the year by Mrs. Edith Preston and Mr. Jack Brown. A competition for a parcel of groceries given by Mrs. E. R. Thorpe was won by Miss Jones.

Tea hostesses were Mrs. L. Bettson, Mrs. H. M. Felton, Mrs. E. M. Sargeant and Miss E. Rotchell.

COLTON 14/3/63

PRODUCE GUILD.—There was a good attendance at the annual meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild, held in the Reading Room, the chairman, Mr. J. H. Toy, presiding. After the reading and confirming of the minutes of the February meeting, the secretary, Miss D. M. Jones, presented a comprehensive report of the year's activities, which have been varied and interesting. The treasurer, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, presented a brief outline of the financial position, but due to her illness, the audit had been held up. This, it is hoped, will be complete by the next meeting. It has been a heavy year as regards expenses, but there would still be a balance of around £12. The chairman, in his remarks, thanked the secretary and treasurer for their work, the rest of the committee for support at all times, and last, but not least, the members. He said the wealth of the guild was not only a matter of £. s. d., it had been an enjoyable year in many ways. Mr. Toy then left the chair and Miss Jones took over. She thanked Mr. Toy for his remarks and for the work he had put into the guild. Mr. D. E. Waters was present to act as teller, but as only ten names had been left on the list an election was not needed. The new committee are: Mr. G. E. D. Atkin (senior); Mr. Leslie Devall, Mr. A. N. Felton, Miss D. M. Jones, Mr. J. F. Peet, Mr. P. A. Preston, Mr. T. Preston, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, Miss Ruth Ravenscroft, and Mr. J. H. Toy. On nominations being asked for regarding chairman, Mr. Toy said he did not wish to stand this year, he felt that after three years as chairman, a change would be good. Mr. Felton proposed and Mrs. M. S. Toy seconded, the election of Mr. T. Preston, who has been vice-chairman for two years. Mr. Preston agreed and took the chair. Miss Jones again accepted office as secretary, and Mrs. Ravenscroft agreed to be treasurer for another year. Mr. P. A. Preston agreed to be vice-chairman. The new chairman thanked members for electing him, and remarked on the noble work done so willingly for the guild by Mr. Toy. Nothing has ever been too much trouble for him. A few business items included letters from Penkridge, and Abbots Bromley guilds regarding the suggestion of an inter-guild Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Show, saying they were willing to consider such a show, and Mr. P. Tabenor, a member of both Colwich and Colton guilds, said the suggestion was received favourably by Colwich Guild. A letter was read from Rugeley Power Station regarding a visit by the guild and the evening of May 9th. was agreed on. The county show floral art schedule was read out, and the chairman said he thought it would be a good idea if the guild would consider an entry in this section (no offers at present). It was announced that the county digging match was postponed due to the condition of the soil. Members were reminded that yearly subscriptions are due, and any one wishing to exhibit at the annual show must have paid up by the end of April and have attended not less than three meetings in the preceeding twelve months, that is, from one show to the next. Mr. Preston welcomed Mr. and Mrs. C. Sutcliffe, of Bromley Wood, who gave an interesting film show of coloured slides, which they had taken when living in Kenya, and also gave information of life there. The chairman moved a vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Sutcliffe, who also judged the competition for a bowl of daffodils, awarding points to: 1. Miss Jones; 2, Mrs. E. H. Tabenor; 3. Mrs. Toy. Winners of the highest number of points over the year were Mrs. Edith Preston, and Mr. Jack Brown. A competition for a parcel of groceries given by Mrs. E. R. Thorpe, was won by Miss Jones. Tea hostesses were Mrs. L. Bettson, Mrs. H. M. Felton, Mrs. E. M. Sargeant, end Miss E. Rotchell.

YOUTH CLUB.—Colton Youth Club had a successful dance in the Reading Room on Friday evening. Music was supplied by the "Abbotonian Group." Spot prizes were won by Gwendoline Ravens-

CONFIRMATION.—An address was given to a large congregation by the Bishop of Stafford, the Right Reverend R. G. Clitherow, when he confirmed candidates of Blithfield and Colton parishes (presented by the Rector, Rev. A. S. Towlson) at St. Mary's Church, Colton, last week. Bishop's Chaplain was the Rev. E. W. Vickery (Vicar of Longdon) and also confirmed were six boys from a private school prepared by the Rev. Vickery. The Bishop, in his address, stressed that it was not enough just to send these young people to Church. It was the duty of parents and god-parnets to support them by their own regular attendance at communion. Robed clergymen also attended from the home parishes of the private school boys, and were in procession with the choirs of Colton and Blithfield. Mr. D. E. Waters (lay reader and headmaster of Colton school, Mr. B. M. Williscroft and Mr. Joseph Tittensor, Colton church wardens, Mr. G. W. Cooper and Mr. George Vernon Blithfield, church wardens. 28/3/63-40-

Colton Mothers' Union

ARMED AT COLTON 29/3/63

The March meeting of Colton Mothers' Union was held in the Reading Room, when Mrs. P. B. Best, Hon. Secretary, introduced the Rev. and Mrs. Davies, of Stowe-by-Chartley (Mrs. Davies had been a school friend of Mrs. Best). Mr. Davies conducted a short service, and gave an inspiring talk on the life and work of David Livingstone, illustrated by maps (drawn by himself) and film slides.

A vote of thanks was voiced by Mrs. J. L. Taylor, the Enrolling Member. It was agreed that Miss Ellen Rotchell again collect

COLTON PRODUCE GUILD ANNUAL MEETING

Hearing 15/3/63

THERE was a good attendance at the annual meeting of Colton Vilage Produce Guild, held in the Reading Room, the Chairman Mr. J. H. Toy presiding.

The hon. Secretary Miss D. M. Jones. presented a comprehensive report of the year's activities, which had been varied and interesting. The hon. Treasurer Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft gave a brief outine of the financial position. Due to her illness the audit had been held up but it is hoped this will be complete by the next meeting.

The Chairman thanked the hon. secretary and hon. treasurer, for their hard work, the committee for support, and the members.

It had been an enjoyable year in many ways.

Mr. Toy then left the Chair and Miss Jones took over, thanking Mr. Toy for the work he had put into the guild. The new committee is:- Mr. G. E. D. Atkin (sen.), Mr. Leslie Devall, Mr. A. N. Felton, Miss D. M. Jones, Mr. J. F. Peet, Mr P. A. Preston, Mr. T. Preston, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, Miss Ruth Ravenscroft, and Mr. J. H. Toy.

Mr. T. Preston was elected as Chairman; Miss Jones again accepted office as hon. secretary, and Mrs. Ravenscroft agreed to be hon. treasurer, Mr. P. A. Preston agreed to be vice-chairman.

The new chairman thanked members for electing him, and remarked on the noble work done so willingly by Mr. Toy.

Letters were read from Penkridge and Abbots Bromley guilds regarding the suggestion of an inter-guild Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Show, (saying they were willing to consider such a show) and Mr P. Tabernor a member of both Colwich and Colton guilds, said the suggestion was received favourably by Colwich guild.

Mr Preston welcomed Mr. and Mrs C. Sutcliffe of Bromley Wood, who gave an interesting film show of coloured slides, which they had taken when living in Kenya.

The Chairman thanked Mr. and Mrs. Sutcliffe, who also judged the competition for a bowl of Daffodils awarding points to, 1, Miss Jones. 2. Mrs. E. H. Tabernor. 3. Mrs. Toy. Winners of the highest number of points over the year were Mrs. Edith Preston and Mr Jack Brown.

A competition for a parcel of groceries given by Mrs. E. R. Thorpe, was won by Miss Jones. Tea hostesses were Mrs. L. Bettson. Mrs. H. M. Felton, Mrs. E. M. Sargeant, and Miss E. Rotchell.

Colton Y.C. dance

Colton Youth Club held a successful dance in the Reading Room on Friday evening when music was supplied by the 'Abbotonian Group.' Spot prizes were won by Gwendoline Ravenscroft and Carol Wisdom. Mrs. I. V. Collins and Mrs. K. Haynes. A competition for a bottle of sherry was won by Dennis Hibbs, and even mare by Mrs. A. E. Upton. Adult helpers with refreshments were Mrs. M. E. Hibbs, Mrs. P. L. Bannister, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, Mrs. J. E. Norman, and Mrs. Collins. Mr. D. E. Waters, youth club leader, expressed thanks to all helpers.

COLTON YOUTH CLUB DANCE

TIMES 16/3/63

Members of Colton Youth Club held a dance in the Reading Room on Friday when prizes were won by Gwendoline Ravenscroft, Carol Wisdom, Mrs. I. V. Collins

ALTHOUGH Colton Village Produce Guild had heavy expenses last year, they finished with a balance of about £12, the treasurer, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, reported at the guild's annual meeting held in the Reading Room. The chairman, Mr. J. H. Toy, remarked that their wealth was not only a matter of pounds, shillings and pence—it had been an enjoyable year in many ways. TIMES 16/3/63

The secretary, Miss D. M. Jones, gave a report of the year's activities which, she said, had been varied and interesting. She thanked Mr. Toy for the work he had done as chairman.

The suggestion, put forward by Penkridge and Abbots Bromley guilds for holiday inter-guild chrysanthemum and dahlia show is to be considered by Colton guild, and Mr. P. Tabernor, who is also a member of the Colwich guild, said the suggestion had been favourably received at Colwich.

The County Show floral art schedule was read and the chairman thought it would be a good idea if the guild considered putting forward an entry in this section.

It was announced that the county digging match had been postponed because of the condition of the soil. A visit to Rugeley Power Station was arranged for May 9.

After the business of the meeting had been completed, Mr. and Mrs. Sutcliffe, of Bromley Wood, showed coloured slides which they had taken when living in Kenya. They were welcomed by Mr. T. Preston, and a vote of thanks was proposed by the chairman.

Mr. and Mrs. Sutcliffe also judged the competition for a bowl of daffodils and awarded prizes to: 1, Miss Jones; 2, Mrs. E. H. Tabernor; 3, Mrs. Toy. Members gaining competition points during the year were: Mrs. Edith Preston and Mr. Jack Brown.

A competition for a parcel of groceries given by Mrs. E. R. Thorpe was won by Miss Jones.

Tea hostesses were Mr. L. Bettson, Mr. H. M. Felton, Mrs. E. M. Sergeant and Miss E. Rotchell.

Mr. Toy said he did not wish to stand for the office of chairman for a fourth year, and the new chairman elected was Mr. T. Preston, who has been vice-chairman for two years.

Mr. P. A. Preston was elected vice-chairman with Miss Jones as secretary and Mrs. Ravenscroft as treasurer.

The committee were elected as follows: Mr. G. E. D. Atkin, senior, Mr. L. Devall, Mr. A. N. Felton, Miss Jones, Mr. J. F. Peet, Mr. P. A. Preston, Mr. T. Preston, Mrs. Ravenscroft, Miss Ruth Ravenscroft and Mr. Toy.

COLTON Parochial Church Council, at their meeting on Wednesday of last week, agreed in principal to a proposal that the County Council should provide a playing field for the Church School in the field opposite the school and part of the adjoining Rectory kitchen garden. TIMES 9/3/62

The scheme is subject to later agreement regarding accommodation works. The P.C.C. also agreed to accept the district valuer's figure for the sale of a small part of the same field required for a sewerage pumping station. They expressed the hope that this settlement would help to speed up the sewerage scheme for the village.

It was decided to appeal for a volunteer to plough the adjoining land, which is to be used for the churchyard extension, to help get rid of weed growth and to make it tidy, having regard to Colton's entry in the Best-Kept Village Competition.

The P.C.C. wish to co-operate to the full with other members of the community to that end, stated the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson.

The council expressed appreciation of a donation in kind from Mr. L. Devalle, who had painted the downspouts and guttering of the church free of charge.

An estimate from the M.E.B for the installation of eight overhead infra-red heaters in the nave was accepted, and the M.E.B were [illegible] firing boiler, though in good condition, was not adequate to heat the church, there being too many old four-inch pipes and no radiators.

It was reported that the modernisation of the clerk's house had been completed, and that the new clerk, Mr. I. Collins, was in occupation.

The rector gave notice that he intended to raise, at the annual meeting on March 27, the question of a change in regulations governing the church cemetery, designed to facilitate maintenance.

It was agreed that there should be another gift day, and March 23, the Saturday nearest to Lady Day, was selected. The gifts will go to the Appeal Fund, which still needs £250 to cover the work carried out on the churchyard by contractors after the death of Mr F. Cooper.

Plans were put in hand for a coffee evening and entertainment in the Church School on April 26, for the Appeal Fund. This event is being arranged by Mrs. E. Pinn[illegible] organised) and the [illegible]

TIMES 23/3/63

Colton bride wore white silk

THE wedding took place at Colton on Saturday of Mr. Derek Cliff Stafford and Miss Elizabeth An[illegible]reston, second daughter of Mr and Mrs. T. Preston, of 7 Holding Wood Farm, Rugeley. The rvice at St. Mary's Church w[illegible] nducted by the Rector, the Re[illegible] S. Towlson.

Mr. Cliff is the only son of Mr and Mrs. W. A. Cliff, of 7 arrowby Street, Stafford.

The bride, who was given awa[illegible] y her father, wore a full-leng[illegible] ress of white corded silk cut o[illegible] assical lines. Her waist-lengt[illegible] ouffant veil was held in place by ill-box of tiny organza flowers a[illegible] he carried a spray of yellow ros[illegible] nd white freesias.

The four bridesmaids w[illegible] resses of royal blue ribbed o[illegible] nan with matching bows in th[illegible] air and matching satin shoes a[illegible] arried sprays of white carnatio[illegible] They were the Misses Judy Prest[illegible] (bride's sister), Beryl Day, A[illegible] Lawson and Susan Preston (bric[illegible] cousin).

Mr. Dennis Fisher was the b[illegible] man.

After the reception at the Shre[illegible] bury Arms Hotel, Rugeley, atten[illegible] by upwards of 80 guests, the co[illegible] left for a honeymoon in Jersey.

The bride's travelling outfit.

Colton.—The annual meeting was held in the Reading Room, Mrs. I. Preston (President) presiding. The Hon. Secretary gave a comprehensive report of the year's work, and the Hon. Treasurer's report on the financia[illegible] position was considered most satisfactory. Elections resulted as follow: Mrs. Ivy Preston, President for the sixth time; Mrs. M. S. Toy 1st Vice-President; Mrs. J. L. Taylor, 2nd Vice-President Secretary, Mrs. P. M. Buckley; Treasurer, Mrs. I. R Brown; Assistant Secretary Mrs. M. L. Waters; Assistant Treasurer, Mrs. M. G Bennett; Press representative Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft; Home and Country, Miss E[illegible] Rotchell; rest of Committee Miss D. M. Jones and Mrs

TO CHECK VAN... SAY POLICE

POLICE Inspector K. R. Cooke, in a reply to Colton Parish Council regarding their complaints of vandalism in the village, asked for members of the Colton community to assist the police by naming anyone seen committing damage. His letter was read at Monday's meeting of the council.

The inspector promised that everything would be done to have the area patrolled as much as possible. He pointed out that there had already been one prosecution, and boys who had tampered with electric fence had been warned.

Councillor F. Hardcastle reported that a meeting with Mr. J. C. Price at the brook bridge would be held in the Spring, regarding a change in the right of way to neighbouring lands. This would be a basis for the making of a plan, and for further discussions, before application was made to Lichfield Rural Council.

There was a long exchange of views between Councillor Hardcastle and Councillor R. Morrall, who said he had not been present at the last meeting when the matter was discussed, regarding the best method of negotiating.

Councillor G. Upton proposed that Parish Lands' Trust should be told of the move and be asked for their reactions.

Councillor L. Mellor, the other farmer involved with Mr. Price, seconded and asked Councillor A. N. Felton (chairman) to put this before the Land Trust meeting.

Research back to 1946, when a gift of a five-years' free cutting of the war memorial grass expired, revealed that from that date £2 a year had been paid to someone to keep the memorial surround in good order. But when another 5s. was added three years ago, for the cutting of the new hedge, no record was made in the minutes, said Mrs. P. M. Buckley (clerk).

The hedge had been planted from Coronation Celebration funds, it was said. More recently the Village Produce Guild had prepared flower beds there and this created still more work in trimming surrounds and weeding beds.

Councillor Felton said he believed it took a full hour each week throughout the summer, and it was pointed out that this meant that the gardener was only getting 1s. 8d. an hour.

Councillors Morrall and Hardcastle both said that the parish council could not offer the man more money without being asked. He was evidently satisfied as he he had not made application for an increase in remuneration.

Mrs. Buckley reported that through postponing the January meeting they had passed the date by which precepts had to made for the forthcoming rate. Accordingly she had obtained a bank statement, which showed that there was a balance of £34 2s. 10d., and Councillors Felton and Mellor had decided that £25 would be sufficient for general expenses for the coming year. A penny rate now produced £55, she said. The chairman's emergency action was approved.

It was agreed that a donation of £1 should again be sent to Staffordshire Rural Community Council.

Councillor Mrs. J. L. Taylor agreed to represent Colton at a one-day school for parish councillors which is being held at Stafford.

It was decided to send a further letter to the owner of a hedge in High Street, asking him to have it cut back. Previous requests over a space of two years have brought no response, it was stated.

Councillor Hardcastle, in answer to an inquiry by Councillor Mellor, said that Colton's sewerage scheme was to be started shortly and would be finished n 1964.

WICKET GATE PROV... 'HURDLE' FOR COLTO... PARISH COUNCIL

COLTON Parish Council spent half of its two-hour me... on Monday discussing the replacement of a wicket... along the footpath leading from near the Trent V... Station to the Pinfold in the village. It stands on ... owned by Mr. G. W. Cooper.

Councillor L. Mellor reported on an interview with Mr. Cooper regarding the need for repairing an existing wooden wicket, brought to the notice of the council at its last meeting in November.

He said that Mr. Cooper made an alternative suggestion of removing an iron wicket, which would soon become unnecessary because he planned to grub out a hedge and make two fields into one. This wicket, he said, only needed new hinges.

The council at first seemed to favour this course on the grounds of economy and they talked of holding up the work in progress on a new wooden wicket pending further investigation, but Councillor R. Morrall said he did not agree with the parish council having to bear the expense anyway. He considered it should be borne by the Uttoxeter area county council committee.

Wickets preferred

Councillor F. Hardcastle said they were only obliged to have a stile as access along a footpath, and this should be provided by the owner of the land. In Colton they preferred wickets and so had to pay for them.

Mrs. P. M. Buckley (clerk) proved this point by reading a letter from her file in which the area committee had stated that the onus was on the land owner to provide a stile, and not on the county council.

Unless they decided quickly, she said, and got the work completed by March 31, they would lose the chance of claiming £12 10s. of the cost as a 1962 footpaths grant. These grants were lost if not claimed within the financial year.

Councillor Morrall said the footpath was used extensively, even in the recent weather, not merely by people out walking in summer, but Councillor Hardcastle pointed out that it had been the parish council's custom to maintain these wickets — it was No. 8 that was under discussion—and Councillor Mrs. J. L. Taylor said they were originally a gift to the parish.

Back to the iron wicket. It was agreed that this should be used instead of a new wooden one.

Councillor Mellor next ... that Mr. Cooper had requested ... in re-erecting it the wicket ... be moved a few feet, to the ... side of the gate, as this would ... it better for him and for the ... using it. "But this constitu... diversion," Councillor Me... pointed out.

After further discussion ... moved by Councillor Hard... and seconded by Councillor ... rall, that because of the amou... negotiations involved in g... permission for a diversion, the ... wicket should be re-erected in ... same position as the pr... wooden one. This was carried.

Public's view

Councillor G. Upton later m... that the parish council should ... Mr. Cooper and see if, from ... public's point of view the wi... would be better in a different ... tion, but the chairman, Counc... A. N. Felton, ruled this out ... order as they had already v... not to change the position.

Thus ended a 45-minutes' dis... sion. But later the subject ... renewed when a member dr... attention to the alleged dan... created by the presence of a pi... corrugated iron sheeting at t... existing wooden wicket.

It was decided that Councill... Mellor should refer to this wh... he resumed negotiations with t... owner of the land.

At the close of the meeting, a... 9-40 p.m., the council reverted to... the wicket for the third time. They had forgotten to arrange for esti... mates for removing the iron one ... and getting it repaired and re-erected!

Films for M.U. party showed blooms and snow

Colton Mothers' Union held their annual Shrove Tuesday party in the Reading Room, when Mrs. J. L. Taylor, enrolling member, extended a welcome to members, friends, members' children, and also members of Blithfield Mothers' Union.

After tea a short whist drive was held, with a beetle drive for the non-whist players.

Winners at whist were Mrs. M... G. Bennett and Mrs. H. Cope, and ... at beetle Gwendoline Ravenscroft ... Marilyn Collins and Mrs. I. V ... Collins. Musical chairs winner ... were Mrs. Cope and Gwendolin... Ravenscroft.

Mr. J. A. Best gave an interest... ing film show of local scenes, fol... lowed by a film taken by his son ... the Rev. Frank Best, of the bul... fields of Holland in full flower.

Mr. Best also showed slide... illustrative of Mrs. Taylor's vis... to Persia, and scenes of the froze... canal and River Trent during th... recent arctic weather.

The competition prize of cha... and settee back covers, given b... Mrs. E. R. Thorpe, was won b... Mrs. S. Hall.

COLTON MOTHERS' UNION PARTY

Colton Mothers' Union held their annual Shrove Tuesday party in the Reading Room when Mrs. J. L. Taylor, Enrolling Member, welcomed members, their friends, members' children and members of Blithfield Mothers' Union.

After tea short whist and beetle drives were held. Winners at whist were Mrs. M. Kent, Mrs. E. M. Sargeant; lowest scores, Mrs. M. G. Bennett, and Mrs. H. Cope. Winners at beetle were Gwendoline Ravenscroft, Marilyn Collins and Mrs. I. V. Collins. Musical chairs winners were Mrs. Cope and Gwendoline Ravenscroft.

Mr. J. A. Best gave an interesting film show. The competition prize of chair and settee back covers given by Mrs. E. R. Thorpe, was won by Mrs. S. Hall.

Mrs. N. Vernon, Blithfield Enrolling Member, ... their thanks to Colton ... enjoyable party ... thanked all wh...

CONFIRMATION AT MERE COLTON

An inspiring address was given to a large congregation by the Bishop of Stafford, the Rt. Rev. R. G. Clitherow when he confirmed candidates of Blithfield and Colton Parishes at St. Mary's Church, Colton last week, presented by the Rector, Rev. A. S. Towlson.

Bishop's Chaplain was the Rev. E. W. Vickery (Vicar of Longdon). Also confirmed were six boys from a private school prepared by Mr. Vickery.

Robed clergy also attended from the home parishes of the private school boys', and were in procession with the choirs of Colton and Blithfield, Mr. D. E. Waters (Lay Reader and Headmaster of Colton School, Mr. B. M. Williscroft and Mr. Joseph Tittensor (Colton Church wardens), Mr. G. W. Cooper and Mr. George Vernon (Blithfield Church wardens).

Mrs. G. E. Finnemore was the organist.

Newly installed electric heaters made a vast improveme... warmth of the Church...

COLTON

MOTHERS' UNION. — Colton Mothers Union held their annual Shrove Tuesday party in the Reading Room, when Mrs. J L. Taylor enrolling member extended a welcome to all members and their friends, members children, and also members of Blithfield M.U. After tea, a short whist drive was held & a beetle drive for the non-whist players. Winners at whist were Mrs. M Kent, Mrs. E. M. Sargeant, lowest scores, Mrs. M G Bennett, and Mrs. H Cope. Winners at the beetle were Gwendoline Ravenscroft, Marilyn Collins and Mrs. I V Collins. Musical chairs winners were Mrs Cope and Gwendoline Ravenscroft. Mr. J. A. Best gave an interesting film show, showing local scenes, and also a film taken by his son, Rev Frank Best, of the bulb fields of Holland in full flower. Mr. Best concluded by showing slides of Mrs. Taylor's visit to Persia, and scenes of the frozen canal and River Trent during the recent Arctic-like weather. The competition prize of chair and settee back covers given by Mrs. E. R. Thorpe, was won by Mrs. S Hall. The singing of Auld Lang Syne" and the National Anthem, brought the evening to a close. Mrs N Vernon (Blithfield enrolling member) expressed thanks to Colton members, for an enjoyable party, and Mrs. Taylor thanked all who had helped in any way to make the party possible.

...mbers join ...rporate ...vice

... of corporate com... in St. Leonard's ... for members of ... Blithfield Mothers' ... was conducted by ... Rev. A. S. Towlson. ... Woodward was ... served in the ... Blithfield Hall by ... Lady Bagot. ... Taylor, enrolling ... Colton, thanked the ... Blithfield branch for ... to join in the ... thanked ... for her hospitality. ... Blithfield members ... a service at

Mothers' Union.—The Rev. W. R. and ... Mrs. Davies, of Stowe by Chart...

INCREASING concern about the danger of the narrow bend in Colton Road, near the Trent Valley Station wall, is being expressed by Mr. Bert Warren, who uses former railway stabling near this point as a furniture warehouse. His large furniture vans constitute an increased danger to pedestrians, he says, and he asks for better warning signs if the corner cannot be widened.

TIMES 16/3/63

"It's the women, with children in prams, that I am most concerned about, for there is no footpath at all just on the bend," Mr. Warren said to the "Times" this week. "There is only a narrow road, bounded by a tall, blue-brick wall on one side, and a bank surmounted by a hedge, on the other.

"I have done everything I can to open up my own exit to make it safer for my drivers," he added.

In spite of representations by Colton Parish Council, the County Council have refused to widen the road at this point by setting back the wall and making room for a path.

Councillor J. E. Riley, the county councillor for the area, took the matter up at county

MERCURY

ASSEMBLY

29/3/63

At the annual Parish Assembly of the Parish of Colton, all members of the Parish Council were present, but only four members of the public.

Mr. A. N. Felton, Chairman of the Parish Council presided and welcomed the few present. Regarding "Best Kept Village" competition, it was agreed that the certificate obtained last year be framed, and that the village be entered again this year.

Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft brought up the question of the flowe borders round the War Memoria She said it would appear ther was criticism from the Paris Council regarding the Villag Produce Guild having made thes borders, and there being mor work for the man attending th surrounds of the Memorial. Th Guild had made them followin a formal written request fro the Parish Council.

Parish Council members sai they intended no criticism t wards the Guild and the Chai man agreed to convey appreci tion of their efforts to the Guil and the hope that the Pari Council could still be sure their support in this matter.

Cllr F. Hardcastle gave a report of the Reading Room Management, saying that the amount in hand at present was just over £100. It was hoped that by

MERCURY

COLTON

19/4/63

At the April meeting of the Colton W.I. held in the Reading Room, Mrs I. Preston presided. It was announced that Mrs. M. L. Waters had resigned from the committee, and that Mrs. N. Jones would again serve. Miss D. M. Jones agreed to take charge of the W.I. china. Mrs. Preston said that if Blithfield were unable to send a delegate to the National Federation A.G.M. she would be willing to attend.

Disappointment was expressed at the news of the re-arrangement of the Parkside Group, which means the loss of Kingstone, Marchington, and Marchington Woodlands, their places to be taken by Colwich (a former member), Hixon, and Stowe-by-Chartley.

Mrs J. L. Taylor was again nominated as Convener, and it was agreed to ask for a change of name rather than be known as "Parkside No. 1". A comprehensive report of the Spring Council meeting was given by the delegate Mrs. C. M. Sanders, who was accompanied by Mrs. Taylor as visitor. She was thanked by Mrs. D. M. Atkin. The

TIMES. 9/3/63

The scene of many accidents is this dangerous bend in Colton Road, at the north-west of Trent Valley Station, Rugeley. Colton Parish Council, who have been pressing the County Council to eliminate the danger, have been told that it would be "extremely costly," and that no action can be taken at present. The picture (above) shows the bad visibility and the danger in which drivers and pedestrians are placed. The footpath tapers away on the Rugeley side, and there is then no side-walk until the Railway Cottages are reached — a distance of 50 yards. The wall is [illegible] **high**

MOTHERS' UNION.—The March meeting of Colton Mothers' Union was held in the Reading Room, attendance being better. Mrs P. B. Best, secretary introduced the Rev. and Mrs Davies of Stowe-by-Chartley (Mrs Davies had been a school friend of Mrs Best). The Rev Davies conducted the short service, and gave a talk on the life and work of David Livingstone, illustrating his talk by the use of maps (drawn by himself) and film slides. A vote of thanks to Rev. Davies was voiced by Mrs J. L. Taylor, the enrolling member. It was agreed that Miss Ellen Rotchell again collect donations for the lilies to decorate the altar at Easter, and that some small effort would have to be planned to swell the very low funds.

TIMES. 8/4/63

A SCHEME which would make Colton cemetery easier to maintain and give the village a better chance of winning the Best Kept Village Competition was outlined by the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, at the annual vestry and parochial church council meeting held in the village school.

The rector said it was impossible to get anyone to maintain the cemetery, but he had had a scheme in mind for some time for the removal of all grave mounds and sewing lawn seed on the new level so that it would be easy to maintain with a motor mower.

He said that kerb stones were also obstacles in mowing and only in exceptional circumstances would these be allowed in the future. Neither would there be mounds on new graves. As for the present graves he thought that relatives, where they could be traced, should be approached with a view to getting their consent for the scheme. They could also be invited to contribute towards a "cemetery fund" as there would need to be a retaining wall built on one side.

Mr. Towlson said he hoped those present would think over his idea and talk it over with those who were not present. There were ways to remember the dead other than by grave stones, and gave as an instance the new stained-glass Baptistry window in memory of their late parish clerk.

Mr. Towlson expressed disappointment at the small number of parishioners at the meeting. He thanked the church officers and helpers for their work during the year and again nominated Mr. J. Tittensor as his warden and Mr. D. E. Waters as deputy.

Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft was reappointed as the Diocesan Conference representative, with Mr. Waters and Mr. W. A. Norman as Ruridecanal Conference representatives.

Elected to the parochial church council were:—Miss D. A. Cooper (secretary), Mr. and Mrs. Collins, Mrs. G. E. Finnemore, Mr. D. C. Schmiegelow, Mrs. V. M. Towlson, Mr. C. M. Boycott, Mr. B. Bettson, Mr. A. N. Felton, Mr. Norman. Women collectors: Mrs. Taylor, Miss E. Rotchell, Mrs. Ravenscroft and Mrs. H. A. Williscroft.

The secretary, Miss Cooper, said the number on the electoral roll was 242.

Mr. Williscroft thanked Mr. [illegible]

P.T.A.—A meeting took place last week in Colton Village School, the object being to consider the formation of a parent teacher association. The headmaster, Mr D E Waters, opened the meeting by saying it was most encouraging to see so many people present. He outlined the general idea of a parent teacher association, saying he did not mean only teachers and parents of present pupils, to be members. It was open to all interested adults. Mr Waters introduced Mr P. Fern, and Mr Holloway of Colwich, who told the meeting how the association was run at Colwich. It was agreed to start a P.T.A. at Colton. The rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson (who was accompanied by Lady Bagot and Mrs Towlson) said how grateful he was to Mr Waters for "starting the ball rolling" in this matter. Officers and committee elected were: Chairman, Mr Waters secretary, Mrs M. S. Toy; treasurer Mrs D. R. Shaw; vice-chairman, Mr Robert Grimley, Mrs Lucy Cooper (Blithfield), Mr Gerald Sanders (Colton), Mr H. Sparkes (Blithfield), Mrs M. G. Bennett and Mrs H. M. Goring (Colton). On the question arising as to the school managers being on committee ex-officio, it was decided against, but that they should feel quite free to attend at any time should they so wish. It was agreed that the subscription be 2/6 per family. Activities and number of meetings in the year will be decided later.

To the Editor

TIMES 16/3/63

COLTON ROAD DANGER

Sir,—Like Colton Parish Council, I feel strongly about the need for some improvement at the dangerous bend in Colton Road, where the railway "blue" wall ends. Someone will get killed there unless the corner is cut back to improve visibility.

The danger has been increased now that I have established a furniture warehouse nearby, as I have three vans going in and out, thereby adding to the hazards at this point.

I support Colton Parish Council all the way and I am thinking of writing to Mr. Julian Snow, M.P., to see if he can persuade the County Council to reconsider the matter, before a life is lost. There could easily be a temporary improvement by the erection of better warning signs, until such time as the County Council can afford to make the real improvement which is a "must" for the sake of the women and children who have to traverse this bend without the protection of a footpath.

Bert Warren.

Passion Sunday evening service at St. Mary's, Colton, was of an unusual nature. Pupils of the Church School read passages from St. Mark's Gospel suitable for the day and Mr. D. E. Waters (headmaster and lay reader) projected a film showing how the Church's year fits in with our Lord's life. The readers were Kevin Waters, John Norman, Michele Pomlett, Ian Myatt, Judith Norman, Pearl Haynes and Rosemary Preston.

6/4/63 TIMES

The Rev. A. S. Towlson announced on Sunday evening that the Colton Church gift day appeal, which is still open, had then reached £40.

Colton M.U.

Colton Mothers' Union were joined by Blithfield members, at a well attended Corporate Communion service in St. Mary's Church, Colton, conducted by the rector Rev. A. S. Towlson, the organist being Mrs. G. E. Finnemore. Collectors were Mrs. J. L. Taylor (Enrolling Member) and Miss Ellen Rotchell. Tea was provided at the Rectory.

Mercury 19/4/63

Colton collection

The recent house-to-house collection in the Colton area organised by Mrs. J. L. Taylor as a

AT COLTON

Disappointment was expressed by the Rev. A. S. Towlson (Rector) at the Annual Parochial Meeting held in the Village School, Colton, that no more than 18 parishioners were present.

The Rector announced that he again nominated Mr. Joseph Tittensor as his Warden, with Mr. D. E. Waters (Lay Reader and Headmaster) as deputy. Mr. Maurice Williscroft undertook to be the People's Warden again for one more year. Mrs. Taylor was elected as deputy People's Warden.

There being no further nominations, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft was re-elected as the Diocesan Conference representative, and the Ruridecanal Conference representatives are Mr. Waters and Mr. Norman. The rest of the Parochial Church Council are Miss D. A. Cooper (Hon.

10/4/63

Parkside W.I. Group.—The spring meeting of the Parkside Group of Women's Institutes took place in Colton Village School, with Colton the hostess Institute. Mrs. J. L. Taylor (Convener, who is also second Vice-President of Colton W.I.) introduced the Chairman (Mrs. Ivy Preston), President of the hostess Institute, who extended a warm welcome to all present, including members of Abbots Bromley, Blithfield, Kingstone, Marchington and Marchington Woodlands. After the singing of "Jerusalem," the Convener read the minutes of the autumn meeting at the Woodlands and presented the financial statement. The Chairman introduced the County Representative (Mrs. B. K. Hopkins, of Longdon) who said it was her first visit to Colton and gave details of county events. She was thanked by Mrs. Preston. A hearty welcome was accorded the guest speaker (Mrs. Lester), an air hostess with Derby Airways, who gave a delightful account of her work with the Company. She said there were people who imagined the life of an air hostess to be all glamour, but she said nothing could be further from the truth. It was really hard work, for instance, she had done more washing up since she became an hostess than ever she had done in all her private life and it was not a 9 a.m. till 5 p.m. job by any means. Nevertheless, if a girl could "stay the pace," so to speak, it was a very rewarding job, and

m MEETING. — At the annual ll pre-
se meeting held in the Village School, nes, of
C the rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, of The
v expressed disappointment that the were
attendance of parishioners (other Lester,
than church officers and P.C.C.), was P. M.
small. the whole attendance being 18. Phillips
Minutes of last year's meeting were in the
read, confirmed, and signed. The r post.
rector thanked all church officers and Wood-
helpers throughout the past year, and judges
announced that he again nominated ghbour
Mr. Joseph Tittensor as his warden, E. R.
and Mr. D. E. Waters (lay reader n was
and headmaster), as deputy. They). A
accepted office. Regarding the own by
people's warden, Mrs. J. L. Taylor he, and
proposed and Mr. A. I. D. Collins n. The
seconded Mr. Maurice Williscroft be nstitute
re-appointed. Mr. Williscroft was ember,
very reluctant to accept, but eventu- Brom-
ally agreed on the understanding meeting
that it was only for one more year. rching-
There followed a ballot for office of Jones
deputy people's warden, between vening,
Mrs. Taylor and Mr. W. A. Norman. en" an
Mrs. Taylor was duly elected. There a close.
being no further nominations for the
office of Diocesan Conference
representative, Mr. B. M. Ravens-
croft agreed to re-appointment. Rural
decanal Conference representatives,
Mr. Waters and Mr. Norman. The
rest of P.C.C. are: Miss D. A.
Cooper, secretary; Mr. and Mrs.
Collins, Mrs. G. E. Finnemo
organist; Mr. D. C. Schmiegelo
and Mrs. V. M. Towlson. Sidesm
(wardens and clerk, ex-officer), M
M. Boycott, Mr. Bernard Bellsc
Mr. A. H. Felton, Mr. Norman, a
Mr. Schmiegelow. Lady collect
(Mothers' Union services), M
Taylor, Miss E. Rotchell, M
Ravenscroft, and Mrs. H. A. Will
croft. The secretary stated that t
number on the electoral roll
present is 242. Mr. Williscroft pr
ented the church expenses accou
and Mr. Tittensor, the appeal fu
account. There were adopted. M
Williscroft said how grateful he w
to Mr. Waters for his work on t
Free Will envelope scheme. Th
rector said that the work of keepin
the old church going falls always
on "the few" but it was the duty
of the P.C.C. to try and spread the
load, and go all out to encourage
all parishioners to play their part.
The rector introduced the problem
of the cemetery, saying how impos-
sible it was to get any one to
maintain it. He spoke of a scheme
he had in mind after much thought
of removing all grave mounds, and
sowing lawn seed on the new
agreed level so that it would be
easy to maintain with a moto
mower. Regarding curb stones, the
rector said these were obstacles when
mowing and in future, only in excep-
tional circumstances, would they be
allowed, and there will be no mounds
on new graves. As regards old
graves, the rector went on, he
thought relatives (where they could
be traced), could be approached with
a view of getting their consent to
this suggestion and inviting them to
contribute towards a cemetery fund
there would need to be a retaining
wall built on the one side. Mr.
Towlson said he hoped those present
would think over this idea and talk it

PARKSIDE GROUP

The spring meeting of the Parkside Group of Women's Institutes was held in Colton Village School, with Colton as the hostess Institute.

Mrs. J. L. Taylor, Convener (who is also second Vice - President of Colton W.I.) introduced the Chairman, Mrs. Ivy Preston (President of the hostess Institute), who extended a warm welcome to all present, including members of Abbots Bromley, Blithfield, Kingstone, Marchington and Marchington Woodlands.

The County representative Mrs. B. K. Hopkins, of Longdon, gave details of forthcoming events.

Mrs. Lester, an air hostess with Derby Airways, gave a delightful account of her work. There were people (she said) who imagined the life of an air hostess was all "glamour." Nothing could be further from the truth. For instance, she had done more washing up since she became a hostess than she had ever done in all her private life, and it was not a 9 a.m.-till-5 p.m. job by any means. Nevertheless, if a girl could "stay the pace" so to speak, it was a very rewarding job, and most interesting. Mrs. N. Jones (Colton) and Mrs. Hibbert (Woodlands) expressed the thanks of all.

The competitions were judged by Mrs. Hopkins and Mrs. Lester, who awarded the prizes to: Mrs. P. M. Buckley (Colton) and Mrs. Phillips (Marchington), for fancy cakes; Mrs. Buckley and Mrs. Hibbert (Woodlands), for a parcel done up for the post. The raffle was won by Mrs. Emery (Marchington).

A film entitled "Abracadabra" was shown during the social time by Mr. C. M. Boycott, who was thanked by the Chairman.

Miss D. M. Jones accompanied the singing.

TION

Association
n last week,
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ters, who was
s thanked by
the Rev. A.
ting the ball

e P.T.A. was
l adults. He
ern and Mr.
the meeting
at Colwich

hat school
be ex-officio

Hostesses for the evening were
Mrs. D. M. Atkin, Mrs. E. M.
Sargeant, and Mrs. Toy. The stall
was in charge of Mrs. C. M. Amyes.
The competition was won by Mrs.
H. A. Williscroft, and the mystery
prize went to Mrs. B. E. Spencer.
Mrs. Toy and Miss Jones expres-
sed a wish to resign from the Best
Kept Village Committee, and Mrs.
L. Jackson and Mrs. Spencer agreed
to take their places.

PARK SIDE GROUP.—The Spring meeting of the Parkside Group of Women's Institute's took place in Colton Village School with Colton the hostess Institute. Mrs J. L. Taylor, convenor (who is also second vice-president of Colton W.I.) introduced the chairman, Mrs Ivy Preston, president of the hostess institute, who extended a welcome to all present, including members of Abbots Bromley, Blithfield, Kingstone, Marchington, and Marchington Woodlands. After the singing of "Jerusalem," the convenor read the minutes of the Autumn meeting at Woodlands and presented the financial statement. The chairman introduced the county representative, Mrs B. K. Hopkins, of Longdon, who, saying it was her first visit to Colton, gave details of county events. She was thanked by Mrs Preston. A welcome was given to the guest speaker, Mrs Lester, an air hostess with Derby Airways, who gave an account of her work with the company. She said there were people who imagined the life of an air hostess all glamour, but she said nothing could be further from the truth. It was really hard work. For instance, she had done more washing up since she became an hostess than ever she had done in all her private life, and it was not a 9 a.m till 5 p.m. job by any means. Never the less, if a girl could "stay the pace" so to speak, it was a very rewarding job, and most interesting. The thanks of all present were expressed by Mrs N. Jones, of Colton, seconded by Mrs Hibbert, of Woodlands. The competitions were judged by Mrs Hopkins and Mrs Lester, who awarded the prizes to Mrs P. M. Buckley, Colton, and Mrs Phillips, Marchington, for fancy cakes, and in the competition for a parcel done up for post, Mrs Buckley and Mrs Hibbert, Woodlands. A vote of thanks to judges was proposed by Miss M. Neighbour, of Marchington, seconded by Mrs Rees, of Blithfield. The raffle was won by Mrs Emery of Marchington. A film called "Abracadabra" was shown by Mr C. M. Boycott, as the social time, and he was thanked by the chairman. The vote of thanks to the hostess Institute was proposed by a Kingstone member, and seconded by Mrs Snelson, of Abbots Bromley. The date of the Autumn meeting was arranged to take place at Marchington, on October 28th. Miss D. M. Jones accompanied the singing for the evening, and with the singing of "The Queen" an enjoyable meeting was brought to a close.

W.I.—The annual general meeting of Colton Women's Institute, was held in the Reading Room, Mrs I. Preston, president, presiding. After the singing of "Jerusalem," and the reading and confirming of the minutes of February meeting, the secretary gave a comprehensive report of the year's work, and she was given a vote of thanks by Mrs M. Bigham. The treasurer's report of the financial position was most satisfactory, and members' thanks to her were expressed by Mrs B M Ravenscroft. The president expressed thanks to Mr C. S. Jones for his work on the audit of the accounts and also thanked fellow committee members for loyal sup-

COLTON TO HAVE BETTER READING ROOM

Colton Parish Councillors four other parishioners who ded the village's parish ass on Friday, were urged by the man. Councillor A. N. Felt pull their weight" at events ned by the Reading Room M ment Committee.

The meeting had heard Councillor F. Hardcastle, w the parish council's represent on this committee that the just over £500 in hand and hoping to submit plans for provement to the room March.

The four parishioners assured that the parish was still pressing for action dangerous corner at Trent Station.

A recommendation was made that the parish council up the matter of the conditi the road leading from the Memorial to the Post Office.

After Mrs. B. M. Raven had suggested that the Vi Produce Guild were being cised because the flowers bo they had provided round the Memorial were causing more Councillor Felton said the p councillors intended no cri of the Guild. He said he convey the parish council's ciation to the Guild for efforts and assured them that

ASSEMBLY.—At the parish assembly of the parish Colton, all members of the pa council were present, but only members of the public atten Mr A. N. Felton, chairman of parish council presided and comed the few present. Minutes the last assembly were read confirmed, and matters arising cussed. It was stated that a and detailed statement of Pa Lands Trust accounts would available for inspection when c pleted. Regarding the best village competition. It was agr that the certificate obtained year be framed, and that the age be entered again this year. B. M. Ravenscroft brought up question of the flower bord round the War Memorial. She it would appear there was criti from the parish council regard the Village Produce Guild hav made these borders, and there ing more work for the man tending the surrounds of the me orial. The Guild made these ders following a formal writ request from the parish coun and this is recorded in the min of the Guild. Parish council me bers said they intended no critici towards the Guild in this matt and the clerk (Mrs P. M. Buckle read from P.C. minutes, the su gestion in 1961 that the Guild asked to do this work. The cha man agreed to convey appreciati of their efforts to the Guild, the hope that the parish counc could still be sure of their suppo in this matter. Cllr. F. Hardcastl gave a report of the Reading Roo Management (he being a represe tative from the P.C.) saying th the amount in hand at present wa just over £500, and it was hope that by this time next year th would be in a position to subm plans for the improvement of th room, if events planned are suc cessful. Mr Felton remarked th he hoped all present would "pu their weight" at these events. As regards the danger at the blue Trent Valley and Bellamour Cor it was stated, the public can sure the P.C. are still pressing some action. A long discussi took place regarding the bus she ter erected last week near the e trance to "Manor Way." Cllrs. Mellor and F. Hardcastle said was unsightly and an eye sore, well as being in a most unsuitab position. Mr Mellor moved a commendation that Lichfield Ru District Council be notified of th opinion of the assembly regardi the shelter, and that the efforts past and present representatives

...OM ALTERATIONS ...NS FOR READING

...the alterations to be carried out at the ...oom, Colton, were presented by Councillor F. ...nd Mr. J. C. Price at the annual meeting of ...n's Institute.

...n on the proposed ... place and Mr. ... the help of mem- ...ecue and fete to ... A lot of outside ... brought in, but ... of the village ...t be so successful.

representative is Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, Miss E. Rochell is "Home and Country" correspondent. Other committee members elected were:—Miss D. M. Jones and Mrs. C. M. Sanders. Mr. M. Williscroft acted as teller and was thanked by Mrs. Preston.

A comprehensive report of the year's activities was presented by Mrs. Buckley, who was thanked by Mrs. M. Bigham.

The treasurer gave a satisfactory financial report, and she was thanked by Mrs. Ravenscroft. The auditor, Mr. C. S. Jones, was also thanked.

Mrs. Taylor proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs. Preston for the able manner in which she had conducted the meetings and affairs of the institute.

It was agreed that the delegate to the Spring council meeting should be either Mrs. Taylor or Mrs.

...men's Institute to ... refreshments, Mr. ... would be a great ...mittee.

... was made. ... who had been ... r sixth term of ... Councillor Hard- ... Price for their ... meeting. ...cients appointed ...oy and Mrs. J. L. ... M. Buckley was ...ry, Mrs. M. L. ...ecretary, Mrs. I. ... and Mrs. M. G. ...reasurer. Press

...ilful expressions on the faces of these W.I. members ...ith the inevitable job of "washing the dishes." In the ...ound are Mrs. J. Taylor (group convener), Mrs. J. ...ker from Derby Airport, Mrs. B. Hopkins (county ...), and Mrs. T. Preston, president of Colton W.I.

...rkside W.I. Group ...eet at Colton

...ness was the guest-speaker at the meeting of ...side Group of Women's Institutes which was ... Village School on Monday. She shattered the ... members from Abbots Bromley, Blithfield, ...rchington and Marchington Woodlands that ... "glamour" by saying that nothing was ... the truth. She said it was really hard work, ... could "stay the pace" it was a very rewarding

... Mrs J Lester, of ... was thanked by ... of Colton

... Mrs J L ... presented the ... the chairman. ... president of the ... introduced the ... Mrs B K ... Mrs Hopkins, ... her first visit ... gave details ... and Mrs Lester ... competitions and ... Mrs P M ... Colton and Mrs ... Marchington (fancy ... Buckley and Mrs ... Woodlands (a ... for passing. The ... donated by Miss M. ... of Marchington. ... was won by Mrs. ... Marchington and during ... period a ... was called

"Abracadabra" was shown by Mr. C. M. Boycott.

He was thanked by the chairman.

It was arranged to hold the autumn group meeting at Marchington on October 28.

... VISITORS ... LTON M.U.

... meeting of Colton ... Best, secretary ... Rev. W. R. Davies ... Charles and Mrs ... Jones and Mrs. Best ... conducted a short ... a talk on David ... was born 150 ... day. He followed ... tides on the same ... thanked by Mrs. ... visiting members. ... that Miss Rotchell ... collect donations for

In the absence [illegible] members of Colton Women's Institute confined their April meeting in the Reading Room to business and discussions.

Mrs. I. Preston presided, and it was announced that Miss M. Jones would again serve on the committee in place of Mrs. M. L. Waters who had resigned.

Miss D. M. Jones agreed to take charge of the W.I. china, and Mrs. Preston said she would be willing to attend the National Federation annual meeting if the Blithfield W.I. was unable to send a representative

Members expressed disappointment at the rearrangement of the Parkside Group, which meant they would lose Kingstone, Marchington and Marchington Woodlands, whose places would be taken by Colwich, Hixon and Stowe-by-Chartley. Mrs. J. L. Taylor was re-appointed convenor, and it was decided to ask for a change of name from Parkside No. 1.

A comprehensive report of the spring council meeting was given by the delegate, Mrs. C. M. Sanders, who had been accompanied by Mrs. [illegible] as a visitor.

The competition for an Easter table decoration was won by Mrs. Jones and Mrs. P. M. Buckley was in charge of a stall. Mrs. V. Pratt won the mystery prize. Tea hostesses were Mrs. L. Bettson, Mrs. Taylor, Miss E. Rotchell and Miss Jones.

Preparing tickets for a raffle in the picture above are Mrs. F. K. Vivian, Mrs. D. M. Atkins, Mrs. M. G. Bennett and Mrs. L. Husselbee.

Colton church's Easter services

Easter Day services at St. Mary's Church, Colton, were well attended and the church had been attractively decorated with Spring

... surprise for choir

When the rector of Colton, the Rev. A. S Towlson, asked his church choir to stay behind after evensong on Easter Sunday it was not because they had been talking during the sermon. As he explained to the congregation, it was for a much more pleasant reason. Their singing had earned them each an Easter egg

Responsible for the choir's surprise was a gentleman who frequently passes through Colton

The scene in Colton village school where the barn dance was held on Friday evening. In the group can be seen the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, and Mr. D. M. Gibb, secretary of the Rural Community Council, and Mr. Jack Brown are seated in the foreground with Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Toy.

TIMES 29/4/63

Straw and harness gave barn dance atmosphere

IN a room appropriately adorned with straw and harness, dancers of all ages enjoyed a barn dance in Colton Village School on Friday evening. The dance was the culmination of five classes at which Mr. Jack Brown, of Colton, has had a busy time teaching square dancing. The idea of holding a dance came from Mr. J. H. Toy, and £15 of the proceeds was given to the Rural Community Council.

Mr. Toy welcomed the dancers, the youngest of whom were only 12 years old, and later announced that by popular demand it was planned to resume square dancing classes in the autumn.

So that the dancers can "keep in touch" it is hoped to arrange an open air get-together during the summer months at Hamley Lodge, where dancing will take place on the tennis court.

A suggestion had also been made by Mr. Brown that another barn dance be held at Christmas, to the music of old carols.

Among the guests was Mr. D. M. Gibb, secretary of the Rural Community Council, who was welcomed by the chairman of the Colton Produce Guild, Mr. T. Preston, who arranged the dance. Mr. Rydall and his band provided music for dancing, and Mr. Brown was caller.

The competition organised by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft was won by Mr. E. Brinkworth (sherry), Mr. G. E. D. Atkin senior (chocolates), and the Rev. A. S. Towlson (cigarettes)

The Barn Dance held in Colton Village School and arranged by Colton Village Produce Guild to give a donation to the Rural Community Council, proved an enjoyable occasion. Besides flower arrangements, the room was decorated with straw, hay, harness etc. Music was supplied by David Ryall and his band, and the caller for square dancing was Mr. Jack Brown.

Mr. J. H. Toy welcomed the

COLTON PRODUCE GUILD

MERCURY 12/4/63

At the April meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild, in the Reading Room, on Thursday evening last week, the new Chairman, Mr. T. Preston, presided.

It is hoped that the Quiz (which due to weather conditions was postponed) with Abbots Bromley Guild will take place at the May meeting. The Chairman asked for refreshments for the Barn Dance, which the Guild are organising in the Village School, on April 19, and the following afternoon there will be a rummage sale in the Reading Room, to help Guild funds.

Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft was re-appointed delegate to the County Executive, and Miss D. M. Jones (hon. secretary) deputy. Mr. T. Preston and Mr. Jack Meddings having done three years on the "Best Kept Village" Committee, resigned, and as no offers to represent the Guild on this committee were forthcoming, it was decided to leave the matter till the May meeting.

Mr. A. N. Felton, Chairman of the Parish Council, spoke about the flower borders surrounding the War Memorial, saying the Council had no intention of criticising the Guild, and would like to feel sure of support this year. In reply, the Chairman said he felt sure this would be forthcoming.

The Chairman welcomed the guest speaker, Mr. J. C. Matthews Vice-Principal of the Farm Institute at Rodbaston, who gave a comprehensive account of the work of the Farm Institute. Members thanks to Mr. Matthew were expressed by Mr. Jack Brown.

The competitions were judged by Mr. Matthews, who awarded points for flower arrangements to 1, Mr. Brown; 2, Mrs. C. M. Aymes; 3, Mrs. I. Preston. Sausage rolls: 1 & 2, Mrs. I. Preston; 3, Mrs. E. Preston. In charge of tea and biscuits were Miss Eileen Norman and Misses Ruth and Gwendoline Ravenscroft, with the assistance of the secretary.

RUMMAGE.—On Saturday afternoon a rummage sale was held in the Reading Room, organised by the Village Produce Guild, to add

COLTON

ADVERTISER 5/4/63

PRODUCE GUILD.—The April meeting of the Colton Village Produce Guild took place in the Reading Room on Thursday evening, the new chairman Mr T. Preston presiding. After the reading and confirming of the minutes, a few business items were attended to. Regarding the dahlia and/or chrysanthemum show, this will be early in September, further details will be decided later. It is hoped that the quiz (which due to weather conditions was postponed) with Abbots Bromley Guild will take place at the May meeting. The chairman asked for refreshments for the barn dance, which the guild is organising in the village school on April 19th, and the following afternoon there will be a rummage sale in the Reading Room to help guild funds. Mrs B. M. Ravenscroft was re-appointed delegate to the county executive and Miss D. M. Jones (secretary) deputy. Mr T. Preston and Mr. Jack Meddings having done three years on the "Best Kept Village" committee, resigned, and as no offers to represent the guild on this committee were forthcoming, it was decided to leave the matter till the May meeting. Mr A. N. Felton, chairman of the parish council, spoke about the flower borders surrounding the War Memorial, saying the parish council had no intention of criticism towards the guild, and that they expressed appreciation of the guilds efforts, and would liek to feel sure of such support this year. In reply, the chairman said he felt sure this would be forthcoming, and asked if the offer of the P.C. still stood regarding the possible purchase of plants, in previous years members had provided these, but this might not be possible this year following the severe winter. Mr. Felton thought this could be arranged. The secretary said she would let members know details regarding transport, etc. to the county annual meeting at the county farm institute on April 27. The chairman welcomed the guest speaker, Mr. J. C. Matthews, vice principal of the farm institute at Rodbaston, who gave a comprehensive account of the work of the institute. Members' thanks to Mr Matthews were expressed by Mr Jack Brown. The competitions were judged by Mr Matthews, who awarded points for flower arrangement: 1, Mr Brown; 2, Mrs C. M. Amyes; 3, Mrs. I. Preston. Six sausage rolls: 1 and 2 Mrs I. Preston; and 3, Mrs. E. Preston. In charge of tea and biscuits were Miss Eileen Norman and Miss Ruth and Gwendoline Ravenscroft with the assistance of the

BARN DANCE.—Coach loads of dancers will meet at Colton School Hall tomorrow (Friday) for the first barn dance ever to be held in the village. The dance is the result of six lessons in barn dancing organised by Mr J. Toye of Hamley Lodge Farm, Colton. Mr Toye told the Advertiser last week: "Since we started the classes we have never looked back. We certainly did not expect them to snowball like they have done. Already we have sold 90 tickets which is the maximum of people which we can have in the school hall! He continued to say that the dance was intended to be the last of the barn dance classes until next winter but by popular demand a second open air dance will be organised for the summer. Caller for the evening will be Mr Jack Brown of The Village Store, Colton. Proceeds of the dance will go to Staffordshire Rural Community Council.

MOTHERS' UNION.—The Colton Mothers' Union were joined by Blithfield members at a corporate communion service in St. Mary's Church, Colton, conducted by the Rector, Rev. A. S. Towlson. The organist was Mrs G. E. Finnemore. Collectors were Mrs J. L. Taylor, enrolling member, and Miss Elle Rotchell. Tea was provided at the Rectory. The recent house-to-house collection in the Colton area organised by Mrs J. L. Taylor as Mothers' Union "Good Deed" for Dr Barnardo's Homes, has resulted in the total of £7 2s 6d being forwarded to headquarters. Collectors were Miss E. Rotchell, Mrs. I. Preston, Mrs C. M. Sanders, and Mrs B. M. Ravenscroft.

W.I.—At the April meeting of the Colton Women's Institute, held in the Reading Room, Mrs I. Preston presided. After the reading and confirming of the minutes of March meeting, the evening was entirely one of business and discussion, there being no guest speaker. It was announced that Mrs M. L. Waters had resigned from the committee, and that Mrs N. Jones would again serve on the committee. Miss D. M Jones agreed to take charge of the W.I. china. Mrs Preston said that if Blithfield were unable to send a delegate to the National Federation annual meeting, she would be willing to attend. Disappointment was expressed at the news of the re-arrangement of the Parkside Group, which means the loss of Kingstone, Marchington and Marchington Woodlands, their places to be taken by Colwich (a former member), Hixon, and Stowe-by-Chartley. Mrs J. L. Taylor was again nominated as convenor, and it was agreed to ask for a change of name rather than be known as Parkside No. 1. A report of the Spring council meeting was given by the delegate Mrs C. M. Sanders, who was accompanied by Mrs Taylor as visitor. She was thanked by

Above, members of County Village Produce Guilds listening to spea (left) at their annual meeting at Rodbaston on Saturday.

WELCO raying Rural
NEW Road Verges

Protests were made at th annual meeting of the Staf fordshire Association of Vilge Produce Guilds at Rodbas ton Farm Institute on turday against Staffordshir County Council's policy of raying roadside verges instead of cutting them.

Mr. Toye asked what ha happened to the use of th scythe. He said that all th beautiful wild flowers along th roadside verges were beir killed by spraying.

"We now stand at 13 guilds" he, said, "but although we are not superstitious we want to enuarge and get out of the teens".

Giving the treasurer's report, Mr. F W Farrer said the association would have been "very much in the red" had it not been for a whist drive which raised £27 9s. and the proceeds from the annual bulb show which raised £11 11. He said that the balance for the year now stood at £16 7s. 9d.

Alderman A. N Hillier congratulated the committee on the progress made by the formation of the new guilds.

Officers elected : Miss J E L Harrison, president; Mr. D. M. Gibb, secretary; Mrs. J. Toye treasurer; Mr. C. F. Horton, representive at the National Council. Elected guild representatives were Mr. G. Arnold, Abbots Bromley; Mr. J Martin, Ashley; Mrs. B M Ravenscroft, Colton Mr. P. Tabernor, Colwich; Mr A. Mosley, Denstone; Mr. G F Wallace, Hanchurch; Mr. N. S. Allen,

Alderman A. N. Hillier, who was present at the meeting, said the question was one of economics. The County Council labour force was two-thirds of what it was two years ago. The County Surveyor's Department was not able to cope with the scything of all the verges.

They had delved very deeply into the problem, he said. Where some organisation undertook to look after certain lengths of verge the County Council would not spray. Some bodies had undertaken to do that.

Another produce guild member said he thought the way the county was spraying the verges was wicked. This country was importing thousands of bees while the County Council was killing the wild flowers and consequently the bees.

The annual report of the association, presented to the meeting, said that three new guilds, at Whittington, Penkridge and Haughton, had joined the association during the year and they were pleased to welcome them. There were now 13 guilds in the association.

During the year the association had been honoured in the election to the national Chairmanship of Mr. C. F. Horton, of Colwich guild.

The association Chairman (Mr. J. D. Lewis) said they were attending the first conference ever held in the new hall at Rodbaston. They were very honoured and delighted to see such a large number of guild representatives present at the meeting.

The association now h the first time, passed th total membership figure

The Secretary stated that the number on the electoral roll at present is 242.

Mr Williscroft presented the Church expenses account, and Mr. Tittensor the Appeal Fund account Mr. Williscroft said how grateful he was to Mr. Waters for his work on the Free Will envelope scheme.

The Rector said that the work of keeping the lovely old Church going fell always on 'the few' but it was the duty of the P.C.C., to try and spread the load, and go all out to encourage all parishioners to play their part.

Again expressing regret that the gathering was not representative of the whole parish, the Rector introduced the problem of the "Cemetery" saying how impossible it was to get any one to maintain it.

He spoke of a scheme he had in mind of removing all grave mounds and sowing lawn seed on the new agreed level so that it would be easy to maintain with a motor mower.

Mr Towlson hoped those present would think over this idea and talk it over with others not present. There were other ways, he said apart from grave stones, whereby one could remember the departed giving as an instance, the new stained glass Baptistry window in memory of the late

September.

Mr. Preston and Mr. J. Meddings resigned from the Best Kept Village committee after three years. and new appointments were deferred until the May meeting.

Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft was reappointed as delegate to the County Executive with the secretary, Miss D. M. Jones as deputy

TIMES 27/4/63

Colton Village Produce Guild held a rummage sale in the Reading Room to boost their funds. Stalls were in charge of Mrs. I. Preston, Mrs. M. S. Toy Miss D. M. Jones. Mrs. L. Jackson. Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft. Miss Ruth Ravenscroft and Miss Gwendoline Ravenscroft. Selling refreshments were Mrs. H. M. Felton, Miss E. Rotchell and Mrs. E. Atkin, and the door steward was Mr. G. E. D. Atkin.

PRODUCE GUILD

The annual report, 1962/63, of the Staffordshire Association of Village Produce Guilds has been published this week, and the villages about Rugeley, especially Colton, come in for considerable mention.

Special thanks are extended to Mr. and Mrs. Timmins who have produced a special film of the Colton Guild which is used to show at inaugural meetings of newly formed guilds.

Mrs. Ravenscroft is another Colton citizen who comes in for

flowers

ADVERTISER

STAFFORDSHIRE County Council was on Saturday accused of killing off flowers and bees with weedkiller sprays.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the Staffordshire Association of Village Produce Guilds, Mr. J. Toye said: "The spraying of roadside verges which kills all these beautiful wild flowers is shameful." And he asked: "What has happened to the scything of grass?"

The chairman of the association, Mr. J. D. Lewis, while agreeing with Mr. Toye said that there were two schools of thought and that often beauty had to be sacrificed for economy. "It's part of modern life." he said.

"ECONOMICS"

A member of the County Roads and Bridges Committee, Alderman A. N. Hillier said: "It is a matter of economics. The County Council

bees

grass verge then the council no longer sprayed the area.

Mr. Lewis commented: "Well, ladies and gentlemen, you have had a challenge thrown out to you. A compromise has been suggested."

He continued that the beauty of the roads could be saved if the village guilds would undertake to look after their own stretches of road. He asked members to take the idea back to their guilds and think about it there.

"WICKED SHAME"

But these comments brought th council under fire again.

has 13 produce guilds

TIMES 4/5/63

COUNTY chairman, Mr. J. D. Lewis, of Colwich, said, at the annual conference of the Staffordshire Association of Village Produce Guilds on Saturday, that with the formation of guilds at Whittington, Penkridge and Haughton, the number in Staffordshire was now 13, but he hoped it would reach "a score" before long.

The 13 Guilds are Abbots Bromley, with a membership of 50, Colton (80), Colwich (80), Maer (325), Ashley (70), Tittensor (70), Standon (50), Hanchurch (130), Madeley (95), Denstone (50), Whitington (35), Penkridge (50) and Haughton (35).

Mr. Lewis said they had hopes of new guilds at Stretton and Forton, which they had been prevented from visiting because of bad weather. They had also written to other villagers and had received inquiries from Etching Hill, Endon and Stanley, and Acton Trussell.

Welcoming the new guilds, Mr. Lewis remarked: "It is pleasing to know that our common heritage is being perpetuated, and even if we only add one or two a year it all helps to swell the seeds of association growth." He thanked the officers of the new guilds and gave his good wishes for their future success.

The conference was held in the new hall at Rodbaston County Farm Institute.

The president, Miss Harrison, of Maer Hall secretary, Mr. D. M. Gibbs and auditor, Mr. O. L. Massey, were re-elected, and Mrs. M. S. Toy, of Colton, was apointed treasurer. Mr. C. F. Horton, of Lichfield, who is chairman of the national federation, was elected county representative to the national council.

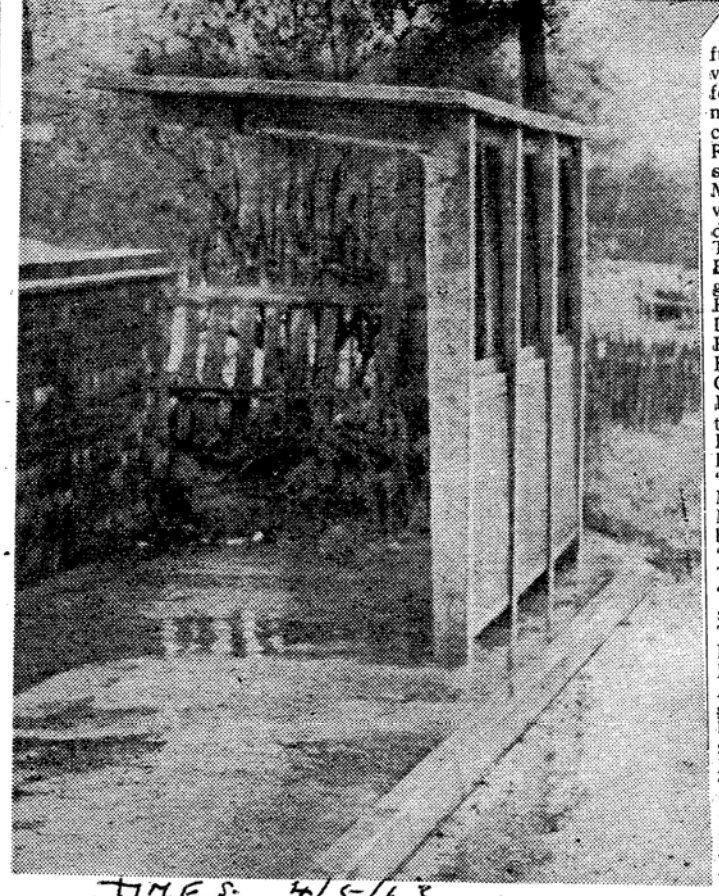
The retiring county treasurer, Mr. F. W. Farrer, presented the statement of accounts.

A long debate followed a question by Mr. J. H. Toy, of Colton, concerning destruction of wild flowers by the spraying of roadside verges.

Alderman A. N. Hillier pointed out that it was a matter of economy.

Guest speaker for the conference was Mr. A. W. Billitt, research director at a chemist's experimental station in Nottingham.

Local guild members elected to the executive committee were: Mr. G. Arnold (Abbots Bromley), Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft (Colton), and Mr. P. Tabernor (Colwich). Deputies for Colton and Colwich are Miss D. M. Jones and Mr. Hancox.



TIMES 4/5/63

For just over a month this concrete shelter has protected Colton 'bus passengers from bad weather. But because the construction did not appeal to the villagers it is to be replaced by a rural-type shelter of wooden construction.

COLTON SHELTER CRITICS APPEASED

A BUS shelter which Lichfield Rural Council provided at Colton in March was not welcomed as an asset to the village. On the contrary, many villagers looked upon the concrete structure near Manor Way with disgust. It was not the type of bus shelter they wanted, nor did they think it was sited in a good position.

These criticisms were passed by Colton Parish Council to the Rural Council, who decided, at their meeting on Friday, that Colton could have a replacement.

By permission of the chairman, Councillor J. Deakin, Colton's representative, Councillor F. Hardcastle, attended the finance committee meeting on the previous Friday, for consideration of the question, and his and the Surveyor's observations were now submitted.

The committee expressed concern at the lack of co-operation between the council, the Parish Council and the local representative on this matter, and it was decided that a replacement shelter could be erected.

Colton will now have a rural type shelter and the siting of it is to be agreed by Lichfield Rural, Staffordshire County, and Colton Parish Councils. The Parish Council contends that the shelter has not been placed where the buses turn.

At last month's meeting Lichfield Rural Council refused a request from Colton for another bus shelter to be erected in the village.

An application for an additional shelter at Bradeley Lakes, Longdon, made by Longdon Parish

2/5/63 COLTON AD

COFFEE EVENING.—A successful coffee evening was held in the village school, Colton, to raise funds for the church organ. An entertainment was given by members of the church choir and girls from the Rugeley Studio of Dancing. The secretary to the church council, Miss D. A. Cooper, announced the various items, the first being a duet by the Rector, the Rev A. S. Towlson, and the organist, Mrs G. E. Finnemore. Then the senior girls of the choir sang "Dicky Bird Hop". Taking part in this were, Dianne Grimley, Christine Leeke Pamela Jones, Christine Peake, and Kathleen Norman. A dance by Gwendoline Ravenscroft, "The Pixie Piper", followed. Senior boys of the choir Melvyn Collins, Stephen Hibbs, Keith Williscroft, Phillip Deacon, and Anthony Wright, sang "The Lonestar Trail". "The Little Match Girl" was danced by Anne Madders followed by another duet by the Rector and Mrs Finnemore. "Tarentella" was danced by Shirley Tittensor and Judith Hodgkinson. "Animal Crackers in my Soup" was sung by small girls of the choir, Trudy Grimley, Glenis Jones, Lynn Peake, Marilyn Collins, Marion Norman, Carol and Susan Wisdom. An exhibition of the Charleston was given by Andrew Cooper, followed by Mrs Finnemore playing a piano solo. Lynda Opie and Valerie Motum danced and sang "Out of Town". The concluding item was the choir singing "Bless this house". Refreshments were in charge of Mrs H. A. Williscroft, Mrs M. L. Waters and helpers. The bring and buy stall was in the care of Mrs F. Grimley, and Mrs W. M. Jones. Door attendants were Mr D. E. Waters and C. M. Boycott. The "Stop Watch" competition was won by Mr L. Bradley, a visitor to the Manor Farm, and the competition given and organised by Mrs Finnemore for a pair of shortie pyjamas, was won by Miss Ruth Ravenscroft. The result of the event was a clear profit of £50. The rector thanked those who helped to make the effort a success.

Colton raises £ for church orga

TIMES 4/5/63

A coffee evening held in Co Village School on Friday of week to raise funds for the Ch organ realised £50. Entertain was provided by members of church choir and pupils from R ley Studio of Dancing.

Miss D. A. Cooper (Ch Council secretary), annou other contributions which inc duets by the Rector, the Re S. Towlson, and the organist, G. E. Finnemore, and chorist

Dancing exhibitions were g by Gwendoline Ravenscroft, A Madders and Shirley Tittensor Judith Hodgkinson. An exhibi of the Charleston by And Cooper was follwed by a pianof solo from Mrs. Finnemore. Ly Opie and Valerie Motum dan and sang "Out of Town".

Refreshments were served Mrs. H. A. Williscroft, Mrs. M Waters and helpers. A bring-a buy stall was run by Mrs. Grimley and Mrs. W. M. Jones.

Competitions were won by and Miss Ruth Rav

PRODU ... MEETING ... ASTON

... W. Billitt, Research ... A. Director of Messrs. Boots ... meeting of Ltd. Experimental Station. ... Lenton, Nottingham, who ... Produce illustrated his address with ... the New Hall film slides taken at Lenton. ... arm Institute. The conference concluded ... well attended. with a tour of the grounds ... Mr. J. D. and glass houses, conducted ... the guests, by members of the staff at ... th the forma- Rodbaston. ... Whittington, ...

COLTON 4/5/63

COFFEE EVENING.—A successful coffee evening was held in the Village School in aid of funds for the church organ. Entertainment was given by the church choir and girls from the Rugeley School of Dancing. Miss D. A. Cooper, Hon. Secretary of the Church Council, announced the items. Those taking part in the entertainment were the Rev. A. S. Towlson, Mrs. G. E. Finnemore, Dianne Grimley, Christine Leeke, Pamela Jones, Christine Peake, Kathleen Norman, Gwendoline Ravenscroft, Melvyn Collins, Stephen Hibbs, Keith Williscroft, Philip Deacon, Anthony Wright, Anne Madders, Shirley Tittensor, Judith Hodgkinson, Trudy Grimley, Genis Jones, Lynn Peake, Marion Norman, Carol Wisdom, Susan Wisdom, Andrew Cooper, Lynda Opie, Valerie Morum and the church choir. Refreshments were in charge of Mrs. H. A. Williscroft, Mrs M. L. Waters and helpers. The bring-and-buy stall was manned by Mrs. F. Grimley and Mrs. W. M. Jones. Door attendants were Mr. D. E. Waters and Mr. C. M. Boycott. The stop watch contest was won by Mr. L. Bradley and the competition organised by Mrs Finnemore; who also gave the prize, was by Miss Ruth Ravenscroft. The effort, realised £50.

ATIVES

... elected ... (Abbots ... E. Martin ... M. Ravenscroft ... cy Tabernor ... Mosley (Deputies) ... Wallace (Hanchurch) ... S. Aiken ... H. Lightfoot ... W. Jones ... (Penkridge) ... Standon) Mrs. ... and Mrs ... ...

... made by Mr. ... olton, of the ... side verges. ... wildflowers ... ember said ... ermed, as a ... the grievous ... year.

... N. Hillier ... matter of ...

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...es £50 3/5/63

...ssful coffee evening held ... Village School, Colton to raise funds for the Church organ, an entertainment was given by members of the Church choir and girls from the Rugeley Studio of Dancing.

The Hon. Secretary to the Church Council, Miss D. A. Cooper announced the items which included duets by the Rector Rev. A. S. Towlson and the organist, Mrs. G. E. Finnemore; senior girls of the choir, Dianne Grimley, Christine Leeke, Pamela Jones, Christine Peake, and Kathleen Norman; a dance by Gwendoline Ravenscroft; senior boys of the choir, Melvyn Collins, Stephen Hibbs, Keith Williscroft, Philip Deacon, and Anthony Wright; dance by Anne Madders; dance by Shirley Finnemore and Judith Hodgkinson; songs by small girls of the choir, Trudy Grimley, Glenis Jones, Lynn Peake, Marilyn Collins, Marion Norman, Carol and Susan Wisdom.

An exhibition of "The Charleston" was given by Andrew Cooper followed by Mrs. Finnemore playing a piano solo. Lynda Ogee and Valerie Motum danced, and the concluding item was the choir singing "Bless this House".

Refreshments were in the charge of Mrs. H. A. Williscroft, Mrs. M. L. Waters and helpers. The bring and buy stall was run by Mrs. F. Grimley and Mrs. W. M. Jones; door attendants were Mr. D. E. Waters and Mr. C. M. Bennett.

The "Stop Watch" competition was won by Mr. L. Bradley, visitor to the Manor Farm, and the competition given and organised by Mrs. Finnemore for a pair of shorty pyjamas, was won by Miss Ruth Ravenscroft. The result of the event was a clear profit of £50.

Been in red but for £3

JUST £3 separated Staffordshire Rural Community Council from being in the red when the last financial year ended in March.

And but for receipt of two unexpected items of income the council would have had a deficit of about £350, it was revealed at the council's annual meeting on Saturday by Mr. J. E. Jarrett, the treasurer.

"The progress that is taking place is not being matched by the council's finances," he said. "The mere existence of the council's work involves increased expenditure while income remains static.

"What we need is more help from industry, the villages and from individuals."

"VERY MUCH ALIVE"

Although Sir Alfred Owen, the president, let a more encouraging note than he said: "The number of items is sufficient evidence that the council is very much alive."

The meeting, held at Dunstall Hall, near Burton-on-Trent, the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. M. [illegible] was attended by 140 people and a record number.

In his address, Mr. Michael [illegible], of Stretton, the television personality, suggested TV should be used as a servant rather than a master in rural areas. "I would like groups of people in villages watching TV, then analysing programmes," he said.

"I feel that for many of us the challenge for using our brains is in the villages than in the

Community Council need more help

ESTIMATED £500 DEFICIT

The financial year just ended was the "worst ever" for Staffordshire Rural Community Council, Mr. J. E. Jarratt, Treasurer, said in his report to the council's annual general meeting at Dunstall Hall, near Burton-on-Trent.

And he warned that the current financial year could be far worse.

Last year, the council's general progress had not been matched by their finances, he said. Although there was a surplus for the year — "a mere £3" — there would have been a deficit of the order of £350 but for two unexpected items of income very late in the year.

Mr. Jarratt said that for the current year they estimated for a deficit of the order of £500. They needed more help from village community associations, from industry located in or which drew some of its labour from rural areas, and more help from individuals.

"There are encouraging signs that this help is beginning to grow, but it must grow at a faster rate," he added.

Income for the year ended March 31st was £4,986 and expenditure £4,983.

Sir Alfred Owen, President, commented that although finances were a bit tricky, he would hate to think the council's work was going to be restricted because of lack of funds. "The mere attendance here shows the rural community council are very much alive," he added.

Officers: President, Sir Alfred Owen; Vice-Presidents, Mr. Lewis Davies, Mr. R. M. Douglas, Professor A. R. Gemmell, Alderman A. N. Hillier, Mrs. J. Hillier, Mr. G.C.Lowe, Mr. W. Nevill; Chairman, Mrs. J. F. Amery; Vice-Chairman, Mr. Lowe; Treasurer, Mr. J. E. Jarratt; Auditor, Mr. A H. Bugg.

ADVERTISER & TIMES COLTON 9/5/63

PRODUCE GUILD.—The May meeting in the Reading Room was very well attended. The chairman, Mr. Tom Preston, welcomed members of the Abbots Bromley Guild who were present, to compete against Colton Guild in a horticultural quiz. After the reading and confirming of the minutes of the April meeting, business items were dealt with. The chairman thanked lady helpers at the recent rummage sale and said that barn dance and square dancing classes had been "an undreamed of success." He extended thanks to Mr. J. H. Toy for his "brainwave" in planning the venture, which has enabled the guild to give £15 to the Rural Community Council without a penny having to come out of the General Guild funds. Mr. Preston also thanked Mr. Jack Brown for giving the lessons, Mr. Leslie Devall for keeping accounts, and all other workers who had given their help in the venture. A letter from the Village Hall Entertainment Committee asked for the help of guild members at the barbecue and fete to take place in June. It was agreed to again stage a hoopla stall, taking £2 out of guild funds to help stock this. Arrangements were made for a visit to Rugeley Power Station. After a letter was read regarding an exhibition at Rodbaston on June 15th., Mr. Toy agreed to attend any meeting to arrange details. The chairman next welcomed Mr. B. Murray, Stafford parks superintendent, who gave a talk on pot plants. Mr. Murray had a selection of plants with him to illustrate his talk, and also invited questions. He was thanked by Mr. Toy. Mr. Preston welcomed the county chairman, Mr. J. D. Lewis, and Mrs. Lewis. In a quiz which followed, Mr. Murray and Mr. Lewis acted as the question masters, and Miss D. M. Jones was scorekeeper. Members of the teams were: Abbots Bromley, Mr. George Arnold (captain), Mr. W. Fleeman, Mrs. K. Pratt and Mrs. L. Husselbee. Colton: Mr Jack Brown (captain), Mr. Percy Tabenor, Mr. Michael Garwood and Miss Mary Preston. The result was a draw. Mr. Lewis and Mr. Murray judged a competition for flower arrangement, awarding points as follows: 1, Mrs. Ivy Preston; 2, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft; 3, Mrs. Edith Preston. A competition for six cheese straws was judged by Mrs. E. Barton and resulted: 1, Mrs. I. Preston; 2, Mrs. E. Preston; 3, Miss M. Preston. A raffle for a pot plant was won by Mrs. D. Bentley, of the visiting guild. At the conclusion of a full evenings programme, Mr. Lewis expressed pleasure at being invited to the meeting. Several ladies of the Colton guild attended to the refreshments.

INTER-GUILD QUIZ

Sentinel 4/5/63

A feature of the well-attended May meeting of the Colton Village Produce Guild was a quiz between teams representing Colton and the Abbots Bromley Guild.

Mr. J. D. Lewis (County Chairman) and Mr. B. Murray (Stafford Parks Superintendent) were the question masters and Miss D. M. Jones the score keeper.

Members of the teams were: Abbots Bromley: Mr. George Arnold (Captain), Mr. W. Fleeman, Mrs. K. Pratt and Mrs. L. Husselbee, Colton: Mr. Jack Brown (Captain), Mr. Percy Tabernor, Mr. Michael Garwood and Miss Mary Preston.

As the result was a draw the teams hope to "fight it out" at Abbots Bromley at a later date.

Mr. Murray gave a helpful talk on "Pot plants" and brought a selection with him to illustrate his remarks. He was thanked by Mr. J. H. Toy.

Mrs. Lewis and Mr. Murray judged the competition for a flower arrangement, awarding points to: 1, Mrs. Ivy Preston; 2, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft; 3, Mrs. Edith Preston.

Square dancing came in with the youth clubs and is now being blended with English country dancing. Colton's recent success with a barn dance augurs well for a revival of this rural pastime. Indeed, Colton appears to be piloting the way in many things these days.

Next on its list seems to be

Colton Village Produce Guild

Mercury 10/5/63

The May meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild in the Reading Room was well attended, the Chairman, Mr. Tom Preston, welcoming members of Abbots Bromley Guild, who were competing against Colton Guild in a horticultural quiz. The Chairman thanked lady helpers at the recent rummage sale, and about the Barn Dance and Square Dancing classes, Mr. Preston said these had been "an undreamed of success," and had enabled the Guild to give a donation of £15 to the Rural Community Council.

A letter from the Village Hall Entertainment Committee asked for help of Guild members at the Barbecue in June, and it was agreed to stage a hoopla stall.

Mr. B. Murray, Stafford Parks Superintendent, gave an interesting talk on pot plants, having a selection with him to illustrate his address. He was thanked by Mr. J. H. Toy.

Mr. Preston welcomed the County Chairman, Mr. J. D. Lewis and Mrs. Lewis. In the Quiz which followed, Mr. Murray and Mr. Lewis acted as the question-masters, and Miss D. M. Jones as score keeper. Members of the teams were:— Abbots Bromley: Mr. George Arnold (captain), Mr. W. Fleeman, Mrs. K. Pratt and Mrs. L. Husselbee: Colton: Mr. Jack Brown (Captain), Mr. Percy Tabernor, Mr. Michael Garwood and Miss Mary Preston. The result was a draw, and Abbots Bromley hope to entertain Colton later on to "fight it out."

Mrs. Lewis and Mr. Murray judged the competition for "A Flower arrangement," awarding points to: 1, Mrs. Ivy Prest[illegible]; 2, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft; 3, Mrs. Edith Preston. The competition for cheese straws, judged by Mrs. E. Barton, was won by: 1, Mrs. I. Preston; 2, Mrs. E. Preston; 3, Miss M. Preston.

A competition for a pot plant was won by Mrs. D. Bentley, of the visiting Guild

Colton Village Produce Guild was one of three committees which handed over donations to Sir Alfred Owen (president) at the annual meeting of the Staffordshire Rural Community Council on Saturday. The Guild's donation of £15 from the recent barn dance proceed was formally presented by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft.

The meeting was held at Dunstall Hall, near Burton-upon-Trent, the home of one of the vice-presidents, Mrs. R. M Douglas, with Sir Alfred Owen presiding over a record attendance.

Before the business of the meeting, the members stood in silence in memory of the late county treasurer, and their auditor, Mr. J. J. Green, who died during the year. Later in the meeting, Mr. E. H. Bugg was elected to take over this office. All other officers and the executive members were re-elected.

The statement of accounts was presented by Mr. J. E. Jarrett, Gu[illegible]

COLTON 17/5/63

At the May meeting of the Colton W.I. the President Mrs. I. Preston presided, and it was announced that the Institute would be 25 on May 12. A letter of appreciation for flowers and card sent during her recent illness was read from Mrs. A. Meddings. The County Quota was discussed, and it was generally agreed that this was best left at 1/6d., per member. It was agreed to stage a produce stall at the village fete in June.

The President welcomed Mrs. B. K. Hopkins of Longdon, who gave an interesting talk on 'Herbs,' passing round a good selection for members' inspection. She was thanked by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft.

Tea Hostesses for the ev[illegible]

ODUCE GUILDS' QUIZ RESULTS IN DRAW

TIMES 11-5-63

The well-attended May meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild, held in the Reading Room under the chairmanship of Mr. T. Preston, members of the Abbots Bromley Guild were welcomed as competitors in a horticultural quiz. The result was a draw and Abbots Bromley hope to entertain Colton at a later date to "fight it out".

The county chairman, Mr. J. D. Lewis (Colwich) and Mr. B. Murray, Stafford parks superintendent, were question-masters and Mr. D. M. Jones was scorekeeper. The teams were as follows:—Abbots Bromley: Mr. G. Arnold (captain), Mr. W. Fleeman, Mrs. V. Pratt, Mrs. L. Husselbee; Colton: Mr. J. Brown (captain), Mr. P. Tabernor, Mr. M. Garwood, Miss M. Preston.

Mr. Murray gave a talk on pot plants, and brought with him a selection to illustrate his talk. He answered many questions, and was thanked by Mr. J. H. Toy.

Mrs. J. D. Lewis and Mr. Murray judged the competition for a flower arrangement, awarding points to the following:— 1, Mrs. Preston; 2, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft; 3, Mrs. E. Preston.

Winners in the competition for six cheese straws, judged by Mrs. E. Barton, was won by: 1, Mrs. I. Preston; 2, Mrs. E. Preston; 3, Miss M. Preston.

During the business part of the meeting Mr. Preston thanked those who had helped at the recent rummage sale and said the barn dance and square dancing classes had been "an undreamed of success." He extended the guild's thanks to Mr. Toy for his "brainwave" in planning the venture, which had enabled them to give a donation of £15 to the Rural Community Council without drawing on guild funds.

He also thanked Mr. Jack Brown for giving the lessons, Mr. L. Devall for keeping the accounts and all other workers who had helped in the venture.

A letter was read from the Village Hall Entertainment Committee asking for the help of guild members at the barbecue and fete in June. It was decided to stage a hoop-la stall again, using £2 of guild funds to stock it.

Arrangements were made for a visit to Rugeley Power Station. An exhibition at Rodbaston's open day on June 15 and a garden party on June 29 at the home of Alderman and Mrs. A. N. Hillier were also discussed.

A raffle for a pot plant was won by Mrs. D. Bentley, of Abbots Bromley. At the conclusion of the evening's programme Mr. Lewis expressed pleasure at being invited to the meeting.

Funeral of Mr. A. A. James at Colton

MERCURY 17-5-63

The funeral service of Mr. Arnold Alfred James, age 37, (who died as the result of a mining accident) of Hollow Lane Colton, took place in St. Mary's Church Colton, on Thursday last week, prior to Cremation at Bushbury Crematorium.

The Rector, Rev. A. S. Towlson, officiated, and Mrs. G. E. Finnemore was at the organ.

A large congregation paid their respects to Mr. James whose father also died as the result of a mining accident some five years ago.

Attending the service were, Mrs. Lily James (widow), Mrs. Ivy James (mother), Mr. and Mrs. Neville James (brother and sister-in-law), Mr. and Mrs George Bushnell, Mr. and Mrs. Algy Bushnell, Mr. F. Bushnell, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Bushnell, Mr. and Mrs. Claud Bushnell, Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Bushnell, Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Bushnell Mr. and Mrs. Donald Bushnell, Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Bushnell, Mr. Jeffrey Bushnell, Mr. E. Walker, Mr. and Mrs. H. Bradbury, Misses Lucy and Bertha Bushnell, Mr. and Mrs. C. Davies (Cousins).

Workmates, N.C.B. and N.U.M. representatives, Mr. Wilfred Bass, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Broughton, Mr. A. V. and Mrs. F. Hardcastle, Mr. and Mrs. F. Taylor, Messrs, George and Luke Mellor, Mrs. P. W. Westhorpe, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Deacon, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Best, Mr. and Mrs. R. Morrall, Mrs. G. M Upton, Mr. L. Kendrick, Mrs. A. and Miss D. A. Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. K. Hollins, Mr. S. and Miss Janet Jones, Mr. J. H. Toy, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, also representing Mr. C. J. Ravenscroft, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. and Miss Barbara Norman, Mr. and Mrs. A. I. D. Collins, Mrs. Nellie Southwell, Mr. and Mrs. R. Curtiss, Mrs. J. H. Wright, Messrs. W. Yates, and Roy Goodall, Mr. and Mrs. A. Gamble.

Mrs. M. E. Hibbs, Miss C. Burns, Mrs. H. A. Williscroft, Mrs. N. Devall, Mrs. B. M. Buckley, Mrs. E. D. Goodall, Mrs. E. Griffin, Mrs May Cooper, Mrs. L. Hall and Mrs. J. M. Haycock. Mr. Maurice Williscroft was the undertaker, and Bearers were, Messrs. Claud Upton, Ernest Hewitt, Charles Shelley, and George Williscroft.

Colton man's death

SENTINEL 17/5/63

There was a large attendance at the funeral at St. Mary's Church, Colton, on Thursday last week of Mr. Arnold Alfred James, of Hollow-lane, Colton, who died as a result of a mining accident.

The Rector (the Rev. A. S. Towlson) officiated, and Mrs. G. E. Finnemore was at the organ.

Mr. James was aged 37. His father also died as the result of a mining accident some five years ago.

Attending the service were Mrs. Lily James (widow), Mrs. Ivy James (mother), Mr. and Mrs. Neville James (brother and sister-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. George Bushnell, Mr. and Mrs. Algy Bushnell, Mr. F. Bushnell, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Bushnell, Mr. and Mrs. Claud Bushnell, Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Bushnell, Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Bushnell, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Bushnell, Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Bushnell, Mr. Jeffrey Bushnell, Mr. E. Walker, Mr. and Mrs. H. Bradbury, Misses Lucy and Bertha Bushnell, Mr. and Mrs. C. Davies.

Also present were workmates, N.C.B. and N.U.M. representatives, Mr. Wilfred Bass, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Broughton, Mr. A. V. and Mrs. F. Hardcastle, Mr. and Mrs. F. Taylor, Messrs. George and Luke Mellor, Mrs. P. W. Westhorpe, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Deacon, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Best, Mr. and Mrs. R. Morrall, Mrs. G. M. Upton, Mr. L. Kendrick, Mrs. A. and Miss D. A. Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. K. Hollins, Mr. S. and Miss Janet Jones, Mr. J. H. Toy, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft (also representing Mr. C. J. Ravenscroft), Mr. and Mrs R. H. and Miss Barbara Norman, Mr. and Mrs. A. I. D. Collins, Mrs. Nellie Southwell, Mr. and Mrs. R. Curtiss, Mrs. J. H. Wright, Messrs. W. Yates and Roy Goodall, Mr. and Mrs. A. Gamble, Mrs. M. E. Hibbs, Miss C. Burns, Mrs. H. A. Williscroft, Mrs. N. Devall, Mrs. B. M. Buckley, Mrs. E. D. Goodall, Mrs. E. Griffin, Mrs. May Cooper, Mrs. L. Hall, Mrs. I. M. Haycock.

Bearers were Messrs. Claud Upton, Ernest Hewitt, Charles Shelley and George Williscroft.

TIMES 18/5/6

The funeral took place at St Mary's Church, Colton, on Th day of last week, followe cremation at Bushbury Cr torium, of Mr Arnold A James, of Hollow Lane, C Aged 37, Mr. James died as result of a mining accident.

The Rector, the Rev. A Towlson, officiated at the se and Mrs. G. E. Finnemore p the organ. The family mou were: Mrs. Lily James (w Mrs. Ivy James (mother), and Mrs. N. James, Mr and A. Bushnell, Mr. F. Bushnell and Mrs. Clifford Bushnell, and Mrs. Claude Bushnell, Mr. Mrs. Dennis Bushnell, Mr. Mrs Ronald Bushnell, Mr. Mrs Donald Bushnell Mr. Mrs. Leslie Bushnell Mr. Je Bushnell Mr E. Walker, and Mrs. H Bradbury, M Lucy and Bertha Bush (brothers and sisters-in-law) and Mrs. C. Davies (cousins)

Among others attending service were Mr. James's mates and National Coal Bo and National Union of M workers representatives Wilfred Bass Mr. and Ernest Broughton Mr. A. V Mrs. F. Hardcastle, Mr and F. Taylor, Messrs. G. and Mellor Mrs. P. W Westho Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Deacon and Mrs. J. A Best, Mr. and R. Morrall, Mrs. G. M. Upton, L. Kendrick, Mrs. A. and Mis A. Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. Hollins, Mr. S and Miss J. Jo Mr J. H. Toy Mrs. B. M. Ra croft (also representing Ravenscroft), Mr. and Mrs. R. and Miss B. Norman, Mr Mrs. A. I. D. Collins, Mrs. N Southwell, Mr. and Mrs. R. Cu Mrs. J. H. Wright, Mr. W. Ya

COLTON

MR. A. A. JAMES.—The funeral service of Mr. Arnold Alfred James, aged 37 (who died as the result of a mining accident), of Hollow Lane, Colton, took place in St. Mary's Church, Colton, prior to cremation at Bushbury Crematorium. The rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, officiated, and Mrs. G. E. Finnemore was at the organ. A large congregation paid their respects to Mr. James whose father also died as the result of a mining accident some five years since. Attending the service were: Mrs. Lily James, widow; Mrs. Ivy James, mother; Mr. and Mrs. Neville James, brother and sister-in-law; Mr. and Mrs. Mrs. George Bushnell, brother-in-law; Mr. and Mrs. Algy Bushnell, brother-in-law; Mr. F. Bushnell, brother-in-law; Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Bushnell, brother-in-law; Mr. and Mrs. Claude Bushnell, brother-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Bushnell, brother-in-law; Mr. and Mrs Ronald Bushnell, brother-in-law; Mr. and Mrs. Donald Bushnell, brother-in-law; Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Bushnell, brother-in-law; Mr. Jeffrey Bushnell, brother-in-law; Mr. E. Walker, brother-in-law Mr. and Mrs. H. Bradbury, sister-in-law; Misses Lucy and Bertha Bushnell, sisters-in-law; Mr. and Mrs. C. Davies, cousins. Workmates, N.C.B. and N.U.M. representatives: Mr. Wilfred Bass, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Broughton, Mr. A. V. and Mrs. F. Hardcastle, Mr. and Mrs. F. Taylor, Messrs. George and Luke Mellor, Mrs. P. W. Westhorpe, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Deacon, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Best, Mr. and Mrs. R. Morrall, Mrs. G. M. Upton, Mr. L. Kendrick, Mrs. A. and Miss D. A. Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. K. Hollins, Mr. S. and Miss Janet Jones, Mr. J. H. Toy, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, representing Mr. C. J. Ravenscroft, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. and Miss Barbara Norman, Mr. and Mrs. A. I. D. Collins, Mrs. Nellie Southwell, Mr. and Mrs. R. Curtiss, Mrs. J. H. Wright, Messrs. W. Yates and Roy Goodall, Mr. and Mrs. A. Gamble, Mrs. M. E. Hibbs, Miss C. Burns, Mrs. H. A. Williscroft, Mrs. N. Devall, Mrs. P. M. Buckley, Mrs. E. D. Goodall, Mrs. E. Griffin, Mrs. May Cooper, Mrs. L. Hall and Mrs. I. M. Haycock. Mr. Maurice Williscroft was the undertaker and the bearers were Messrs. Claude Upton, Ernest Hewitt, Charles Shelley and George Williscroft.

Church Council meeting at Colton

TIMES 21/5/63

MERCURY

At a meeting of Colton Parochial Church Council at the Rectory on Friday evening, the Rector (Rev. A. S. Towlson) reported that the Gift day had brought in £47 5s. 6d. Grateful thanks were recorded to Blithfield Parochial Church Council who had contributed £50 towards the mortgage on the Rectory.

Regarding the Free Will Envelope Scheme, Mr. D. E. Waters said this had been on the low side since Easter. It was agreed that a list of the subscribers be published, using numbers, not names, which it was felt, that this might encourage more people to "pull their weight" in the matter of trying to maintain the Church Expenses Account in a healthy condition.

It was wrong, he said, to depend on such methods as raffles, pontoons, etc. for the day to day upkeep of the Church.

Mr. Maurice Williscroft

W.I.—At the May meeting of the Colton Women's Institute the president, Mrs. I. Preston, presided, and it was announced that the Institute would be 25 on May 12th. After the singing of "Jerusalem" and the reading and confirming of the minutes of the April meeting, a letter of appreciation for flowers and card sent during the recent illness was read from Mrs. A. Meddings. The matter of the county quota was discussed, and it was generally agreed that this was best left at 1s. 6d. per member, if it did away with need for county efforts to raise money, it being felt that every member in the county contributed to the quota, where perhaps quite a few did not in money raising efforts. A letter from the Village Hall Entertainments Committee asked for help at the barbecue and fete in June, it was agreed to again stage a stall for produce, cakes, etc., with addition of home-made sweets. Mrs V. Pratt gave a report of a meeting she had attended for the delegate, Mrs. Preston, on the resolutions at the National Federation A.G.M. It was decided that the delegate vote as she felt best in the light of discussion at the meeting. The president welcomed the guest speaker Mrs. B. K. Hopkins of Longdon, who gave

TIMES 18/3/65

The county quota was discussed thoroughly by members of Colton W.I. at their May meeting and it was generally agreed that this should remain at 1s. 6d. per member because it dispensed with the need for county efforts to raise money. It was felt that every member contributed to the quota, whereas at present some did not contribute to money - raising efforts.

At the meeting, at which Mrs. I. Preston (president) presided, it was announced that the institute celebrated its 25th birthday on Sunday. A letter asking for help at the village fete and barbecue w

Colton.—At the May meeting the President (Mrs. I. Preston) presided. The matter of the County Quota was discussed, and it was generally agreed that this was best left at 1s. 6d. per member if it did away with need for County efforts to raise money, it being felt that every member in the County contributed to the quota, whereas perhaps quite a few did not in money-raising efforts. Mrs. B. K. Hopkins, of Longdon, gave a most interesting talk on "Herbs," their history, and the use to which they can be put. She passed round a good selection of herbs for members' inspection. The vote of thanks was expressed by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft. Tea hostesses were Mrs. P. B. Best, Mrs. L.

...wrong to depend on such methods as raffles, pontoons and the like for the day-to-day upkeep of the church," said the Rector of Colton, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, at Friday's meeting of Colton Parochial Church Council.

The gift day had brought in £47 5s. 6d., the rector said. Thanks were recorded to Blithfield P.C.C., who had contributed £50 towards the mortgage on the Rectory.

Regarding the freewill envelope scheme, Mr. D. E. Waters said this had been "on the low side" since Easter. It was decided that a list of subscriptions should be published using numbers instead of names. It was felt that this might encourage more people to "pull their weight", in trying by this method to maintain the church expenses account in a healthy condition.

This should be the aim of all Christian people, said the rector, for systematic giving was the truly Christian attitude. It was wrong to depend on such methods as raffles, pontoons and the like, and the church council should not have to spend hours planning how to raise money.

Mr. M. Williscroft (people's warden) said church collections had increased, but so had the expenses.

The rector said an unexpected offer had been received to rebuild the south boundary wall of the church grounds for a nominal sum. Any donations towards this would be welcome, he said, and he and Mrs. Towlson had started the fund off that morning by giving the proceeds of a coffee morning.

There had so far been no advance with the cemetery project, the rector said, but he thought the scheme which he had in mind had been favourably received by some parishioners. Work on the wall on the west boundary would be done when funds were available, he said.

The rector and Mrs. Towlson were arranging a coffee evening at the Rectory on June 7, it was announced, and Mrs. J. L. Taylor (deputy people's warden) agreed to hold one in the late summer at Little Hay Manor Farm.

It was decided that the fete should be held on August 7. Miss D. A. Cooper agreed to continue representing the P.C.C. on the Best Kept Village Committee. Mr. and Mrs. A. I. D. Collins offered to continue mowing the church grounds and cleaning the church another year, and the council expressed gratitude to the clerk and his wife for doing so.

The rector reported that there had been no progress concerning a pumping station to be erected on church property, nor with the school playing field.

TIMES 25/5/63

COLTON WIDOW DIES IN HER 78th YEAR

4/6/63

The cremation took place at Mark Eaton Crematorium of Mrs. Alice Blore, of Colton Cottage, who died aged 77 years.

She was the widow of Mr. Elijah Septimus Blore, who died in August last year, and a daughter of the late Mr. Edward Radford, who for many years lived at Church Croft, Station Road, Rugeley. Mr. Radford also farmed at Old Wood Farm, Colton, and was one of the overseers of Colton parish.

Mrs. Blore leaves one son, who lives in New Zealand, and four daughters. President at the choral service conducted by the vicar of Abbots Bromley, the Rev. C. J. A. Payton, were Miss M. M. Blore, Mr and Mrs. D. M. Foot, Mr. and Mrs. F. Constable, Mr. and Mrs. S. Fairburn (daughters and sons-in-law); Miss B. M. Radford (sister); Mr. C. Blore and Mr. L. Blore (nephews); Miss Done, Mrs. A. Carthy (representing Mr. and Mrs. A. Done), Mrs. R. Houldcroft, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. A. Plant, Mrs. P. Hoskins, Mrs. R. Evans, Mr. and Mrs. F. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Felton and Mr. and Mrs. B. Bettson. Floral tributes included one from the principal and staff of the Pershore Institute of Horticulture, Worcestershire.

At a meeting of the executive committee of the staffordshire Association of Village Produce Guilds, held at Stafford on Monday evening, Mr. J. D. Lewis chairman of the Colwich Village Produce Guild, was re-elected county chairman. TIMES.

Mr. Lewis gave details of arrangements for an exhibition to be staged mainly by the Colwich and Colton Guilds at Rodbaston Open Day on June 15. The president's trophy, he said, would be competed for in a flower arrangement competition at Penkridge Village Hall on July 17. Each guild was to enter a team of four.

It was agreed to hold a harvest

4/6/63 COLTON 31/5/63

PARISH COUNCIL.—The annual meeting of the Colton Parish Council took place in the Reading Room. The chairman, Mr. A. N. Felton, presided. He extended thanks to his fellow councillors for help and co-operation during the past year. Coun. Mrs. J. L. Taylor thanked Mr. Felton for the able manner he had carried out his duties. This was seconded by Coun. F. Hardcastle. Coun. L. Mellor proposed the re-election of Mr. Felton to the chair, but Mr. Felton said he felt unable to carry on in this office. Mr. Hardcastle then proposed Mr. Mellor (vice-chairman) who accepted and took the chair. Coun. G. F. Upton accepted the office of vice-chairman. Representatives on Reading Room management: Couns. R. Morrall, Hardcastle and Upton; snow clearing: Mr. Hardcastle. County Councillor J. E. Riley was welcomed to the meeting. Regarding the danger spot at the Trent Valley, Mr Riley said this stretch of road was just in the Uttoxeter area. He agreed it was a most dangerous spot and that something ought to be done, but that at the moment this matter was turned down. He said that due to frost damage such a lot of work has to be done on the roads. The matter could be brought up again to go in next year's estimates. Mr. Hardcastle said he quite agreed with what Mr. Riley had to say, but that the right answer was not forthcoming from the county council. He said the parish council would be satisfied if a reply in writing acknowledged this stretch of road a danger spot, and that the matter would be put on the files for future attention. Mr. Riley assured the P.C. that he would certainly take the matter up and the council agreed that a further letter be sent to strengthen Mr. Riley's hand. Regarding the overgrown hedge in the High Street it was stated there was as yet no improvement. In the matter of the bus shelter at the top of the village, the chairman reported on a meeting with the various interested bodies on the site. He said this meeting was not too satisfactory, but feels there is no alternative but to make the best of a bad effort, and leave the shelter and position as sited, the emphasis being on road safety. The shelter will be improved and made more in keeping with the rural surroundings. Mr. Hardcastle remarked that the R.D.C. had failed to co-operate with the Parish Council. Mr. Upton said it was not a shelter at all as it stood at present, and that people were still getting on the bus at the old stop. Mr. Hardcastle said the bus was only supposed to pick up at the shelter. Regarding the "Best Kept" Village Committee, it was felt that at present there was not enough support. A suggestion was made that there should be more representatives from the various organisations, and that any villager interested would be very welcome to join the committee. In the "Best Kept" Garden Competition, the judges will be Messrs. Spinkes of Ingestre. It was agreed that a few posters be put up regarding this. It was decided to write to the area surveyor regarding the condition of the road leading to the Post Office. Mrs. Taylor said she would be pleased to attend the annual conference in London. A letter was read regarding the survey of rural industries. Mr. Riley said he should do all that he could to press forward the school plans. He was thanked for his attendance at the meeting by Mr. Hardcastle, who went on to give the report of the public health inspector, regarding the condition of the school. Concern was expressed about this and Mr. Hardcastle the two councillors who are on school management (one of these representing the parish council) to press forward in their efforts to get the school up to standard.

SERVICE.—The pupils of Colton school attended St. Mary's Church

Colton Parish Council meeting

Mercury 31/5/63

At the annual meeting of Colton Parish Council, held in the Reading Room, the Chairman, Mr. A. N. Felton, thanked his fellow councillors for help and co-operation during the past year, while Cllr. Mrs. J. L. Taylor thanked Mr. Felton for the able manner he had carried out his duties.

Cllr. L. Mellor proposed the re-election of Cllr. Felton to the chair, but Mr. Felton felt unable to carry on, so Cllr. Hardcastle proposed Cllr. Mellor (Vice-chairman) who accepted. Cllr. G. F. Upton accepted the office of Vice-chairman.

County Councillor J. E. Riley was welcomed to the meeting, and regarding the danger spot at the Trent Valley, said this stretch of road was just in the Uttoxeter area. He agreed that it was a dangerous spot and that something ought to be done, but that at the moment this matter was turned down. He said that due to frost damage, a lot of work had to be done on the roads. The matter could be brought up again to go in next year's estimates. Mr. Hardcastle said the Parish Council would be satisfied if a reply in writing acknowledged this stretch of road a danger spot, and that the matter would be put on the files for future attention.

On the bus shelter at the top of the village, the Chairman reported on a meeting with the interested bodies on the site, which was "not too satisfoctory." It was felt there was no alternative but to make the best of a bad effort, and leave the shelter position as sited.

It was decided to write to the Area Surveyor regarding the condition of the road leading to the Post Office.

MOTHERS' UNION. — Colton Mothers' Union held their May meeting in the Reading Room, when Mrs. J. L. Taylor, enrolling member, welcomed Mrs. C. J. A. Payton, deanery presiding member, who conducted a short service and gave a talk on kindness. Mrs. L. Bettson expressed members' thanks to Mrs. Payton. On a letter being read asking for help at the barbecue and fete in June, it was decided to help with the Women's Institute produce stall. A bring and buy stall to help M.U. funds was in the charge of Miss E. Rotchell and Mrs. E. Griffin, and a competition was won by Mrs. I. V. Collins for a pair of stockings and Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft tea.

Colton.—At an open meeting the President (Mrs. I. Preston) welcomed Miss Pitcher and Miss Hallett, of a wellknown chocolate firm, who gave an interesting demonstration, producing a tempting fruit flan, melting moments, and chocolate

ASKS COUNTY TO DEAL WITH 'A DEATH TRAP'

GROWING concern among regular users of Colton Road about the dangerous, pathless bend near the end of the station wall is the subject of a petition which, sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. B. Warren, is to be submitted to the County Council.

The county council have stated that they cannot afford to carry out any improvement at the bend and British Railways have refused to set back the retaining wall to improve visibility and make room for a path.

The bend has always been treacherous for pedestrians especially mothers with perambulators, and the danger has increased now that the road is being used by more motorists, including many visitors to Blithfield Hall and traders serving the growing village of Colton.

Mr. Warren feels concerned personally because he has developed his furniture business in former railway stables near the corner and admits that with his large furniture vans he is increasing the accident risk.

"Dread"

"I have done all that I can to improve my own entrance, but my drivers dread coming in and out in case they trap someone on the road," he told the "Times" on Tuesday as he was preparing the petition.

He is taking this step because he is very perturbed at the lack of action. "Everyone round here is up in arms about it," he says.

The petition draws attention to "the extremely dangerous situation which exists near the old cattle pens on the road between Rugeley and Colton" and says: "We earnestly request some positive action before a serious accident, or a death, ensues at this point."

Councillor E. J. Riley, county councillor for the Colton area, who attended the annual meeting of Colton Parish Council on Friday week, told the council that the first he knew of the situation was from a report in the "Times." The particular stretch of road was just inside the Uttoxeter county roads area, he said, and he agreed that it was a most dangerous spot and that something ought to be done.

Although the county council had declined to take action, the question could, he said, be raised again in time for next year's estimates.

Councillor F. Hardcastle said he agreed with Councillor Riley's observations, but the right answer was not forthcoming from the county council. He thought the parish council would be satisfied with a written acknowledgment that this stretch of road was a danger spot. The matter would then be put on the files for future attention.

Councillor Riley who wondered if a solution might be a footpath on the opposite side, assured the parish council that he would take the matter up again. The council agreed to send a further letter to strengthen his hand.

THANKSGIVING

Mothers Union members from Colton, Blithfield and Abbots Bromley were among the large congregation at Lichfield Cathedral on Thursday evening of last week for the diocesan thanksgiving service to end Christian Family Year. More than 80 banners were carried in procession. Mrs J. L. Taylor was Colton's representative. TIMES 8/6/63

A typical scene at the dangerous corner along Colton Road, where there is no footpath. Mrs. Ivan Gudgin, of 8, Colton Road, wife of a railway ganger, is seen pushing a perambulator along the road as a furniture van approaches and is met by another vehicle. "This is a regular occurrence and it terrifies me," she told the "Times." Although it means taking the baby with her, she always accompanies her children part way to school because she fears for their safety on this stretch of road.

COLTON

PARISH COUNCIL. — Mr. Mellor, who has held office as Vice-Chairman, was elected as Chairman of Colton Parish Council at their annual meeting held in the Reading Room. The new Vice-Chairman is Mr. G. F. Upton. — Mr. Riley undertook to press for road improvements at the danger spot known at Trent Valley, and also for the implementation of the local school plans. — A plea was made for more representatives from local organisations on the Colton Best-Kept Village Committee.

MOTHERS' UNION. — At the monthly meeting of Colton Mothers' Union, held in the Reading Room, Mrs. J. L. Taylor (Enrolling Member) welcomed Mrs. C. J. A. Payton (Deanery Presiding Member), who conducted a short service and gave a talk on "Kindness." Mrs. L. Bettson expressed the members' thanks. A bring-and-buy stall to help M.U. funds was run by Miss E. Rotchell and Mrs. E. Griffin. A competition was won by Mrs. I. V. Collins (pair of stockings) and Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft (tea).

Colton Womens Institute held an open meeting on Wednesday of last week, when the president, Mrs. I. Preston, welcomed Miss Pitcher and Miss Hallett, representatives of a chocolate firm, who gave a demonstration. TIMES

They produced a tempting fruit flan, "Melting Moments" and chocolate mousse, which were afterwards raffled. The winners were Mrs. Preston, Miss D. M. Jones, Mesdames M. E. Everall, J. Meddings, M. S. Toy, P. M. Buck-

Members of Colton Parish Council feel that they are not getting enough support from the village for their Best Kept Village Committee. The apathy was discussed at the annual meeting of the council held in the Reading Room, when a suggestion was made that there should be more representatives of organisations on the committee.

It was pointed out that any interested villagers would be welcome on the committee.

MAKING his first visit on Friday evening to the Parish Council of Colton, one of the parishes he represents on the County Council, was County Councillor J. E. Riley.

Presiding for the last time at this, the annual meeting of the Parish Council, held in the Reading Room, the retiring chairman, Councillor A. N. Felton thanked his fellow councillors for their help and co-operation during the past years.

Councillor Felton was in turn thanked by Councillors Mrs. J. L. Taylor and F. Hardcastle, for the able manner in which he had carried out his duties. His re-election was proposed by Councillor L. Mellor, but Councillor Felton said he felt unable to continue in this office.

The proposition that Councillor Mellor be chairman, made by Councillor Hardcastle, was accepted, and the office of vice-chairman was filled by Councillor G. F. Upton.

Councillors R. Morrall and Hardcastle were chosen as representatives to the Reading Room Management Committee. Councillor Hardcastle will also be responsible for snow clearing.

Hereford 7/6/63

The cremation took place at Markeaton Crematorium, of Mrs. Alice Blore, aged 77, of Colton Cottage, widow of Mr. Elijah Septimus Blore (who died in August last year) and daughter of the late Mr. Edward Radford, who lived for many years at what is now known as Church Croft, Station Road, Rugeley, and who at one time farmed at Old Wood Farm, Colton, and was one of the Overseers of Colton Parish.

Mrs. Blore leaves one son, who is in New Zealand, and four daughters.

The choral service was conducted by Rev. C. J. A. Payton, Vicar of Abbots Bromley. Attending were: Miss M. M. Blore (daughter); Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Foot, Mr. and Mrs. F. Constable, Mr. and Mrs. S. Fairburn (daughters and sons-in-law); Miss B. M. Radford (sister); Mr. Charles and Mr. Leslie Blore (nephews); Miss Done; Mrs. A. Carthy (also representing Mr. & Mrs. A. Done); Mrs. R. Houldcroft; Mr. C. H. A. Plant; Mrs. Peter Hoskins; Mrs. Rowland Evans; Mr. and Mrs. F. Taylor; Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Felton; and Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Bettson.

MRS. A. BLORE.—Cremation took place at Markeaton Crematorium of Mrs. Alice Blore, of Colton Cottage, Colton, who died at the age of 77. The widow of Mr. Elijah Septimus Blore, who died in August last, she was a daughter of the late Mr. Edward Radford, who lived for many years at what is now known as Church Croft, Station-road, Rugeley, and who at one time farmed at Old Wood Farm, Colton, and was one of the Overseers of Colton Parish. Mrs. Blore leaves one son (who is in New Zealand) and four daughters. The choral service was conducted by the Rev. C. J. A. Payton (Vicar of Abbots Bromley). Mourners were: Miss M. M. Blore, Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Foot, Mr. and Mrs. F. Constable, Mr. and Mrs. S. airburn (sons-in-law and aughters), Miss B. M. Radord (sister), Mr. Charles and

Colton Parish Council has decided not to press for a rural type of bus shelter after all although they remain dissatisfied with the concrete structure which Lichfield Rural Council have erected. TIMES 7/6/63

At Friday's annual meeting report was given on a site meeting between the various interested bodies. Though the parish representatives did not approve of the siting, or of the type of shelter, it was found that no other site was agreeable to the county council and the police.

Accordingly, in the interests of road safety, it was decided not to press for a change of site.

Following this, as the parish council felt they would not be justified in putting the ratepayers to additional expense by pressing for a rural type of shelter, they reluctantly decided to let the concrete one stay.

It was agreed that it should be painted green, be glazed, and have one end closed in, to make it as much like a rural type shelter as possible.

Councillor F. Hardcastle said the rural council had failed to co-operate with the parish council on this matter. When Councillor G. Upton remarked that "it was not a shelter at all at present" and that people still got on the bus at the old stop, Councillor Hardcastle said that the bus was supposed to pick up only at the shelter.

Rugeley COLTON 6/6/63

FUNERAL.—The cremation took place at Mark Eaton crematorium, of Mrs Alice Blore, age 77, of Colton Cottage, widow of Mr. Elijah Septimus Blore, who died in August last, and daughter of the late Mr Edward Radford, who lived for many years at, what is now known as Church Croft, Station Road, Rugeley, and who at one time farmed at Old Wood Farm, Colton. Mrs Blore leaves one son, who is in New Zealand, and four daughters. The choral service was conducted by Rev C. J. A. Payton, vicar of Abbots Bromley. Attending were: Miss M. M. Blore, daughter; Mr and Mrs D. M. Foot, daughter and son-in-law; Mr and Mrs. F. Constable, daughter and son-in-law; Mr and Mrs S. Fairburn, daughter and son-in-law; Miss B. M. Radford, sister; Mr Charles and

8/6/63

A GREAT believer in the preservation of rural England, Mr. Fred Hardcastle, of Bank Top, Colton, is [illegible] best to ensure that his village is preserved in its [illegible] development at present taking place there, he regards with favour, as it is "recessed into the [illegible] and surrounded by beauty that only the [illegible] give."

[illegible] Manchester 61 years ago, he came to Colton in [illegible] was educated at Colton C.E. School. He began [illegible] a farm at 13, but soon became an apprenticed [illegible] Charles Thompson and Son, of Market Street, [illegible] then joined his father in a business which they [illegible] Wolseley Road, at the rear of the present antique [illegible] the name W. J. Hardcastle and Son. Later [illegible] moved to Bow Street.

[illegible] the war Mr. Hardcastle did essential work in [illegible] of the country. When his father died, his [illegible] joined the business and they changed the [illegible] Hardcastle Brothers. The brother has died, how- [illegible] Mr. Hardcastle's son Victor shares with him, [illegible] a business of contractors, builders, plumbing and [illegible] engineers.

[illegible] of Colton Parish Council for 14 years, chairman [illegible] to 1962. Councillor Hardcastle has served on Lich- [illegible] Council for two years. He has been a social wel- [illegible] representative of the parish on Staffordshire Rural [illegible] Council since its inception. He recalls the long [illegible] public lighting for the village, which he initiated [illegible] at a meeting.

[illegible] a member of the Management Committee of the [illegible] and first chairman of the Village Hall Enter- [illegible] Committee, which is now undertaking great [illegible] to raise money for its improvement. He is chair- [illegible] of Colton Youth Club's adult committee, former [illegible] of the Best Kept Village Committee, and present [illegible] of Colton Conservative branch. A great sports- [illegible] has been in his stride football, boxing, athletics, [illegible] racing and is also keen on dancing. He still owns [illegible] greyhounds and takes part regularly in dog [illegible] racing.

[illegible] played football for 14 consecutive years, commencing [illegible] with Abbots Bromley and later played for Colton [illegible] in the Uttoxeter League. He also played for [illegible] the Rugeley and Stafford Leagues, first at centre [illegible] dropping to half back "when he got slow."

[illegible] a member of the executive committee of Rugeley [illegible] League, a member of Rugeley Playing Fields [illegible] Committee and also former member of Rugeley [illegible] Club.

COLTON

CHURCH EFFORTS.—A successful coffee evening was held by invitation of the Rev. and Mrs. A. S. Towlson at The Rectory, Colton. Proceeds were for the appeal fund of Colton St. Mary's Church. Mr. B. M. Williscroft and Mr. A. I. D. Collins were door-keepers; the bring-and-buy stall was staffed by Mrs. G. E. Tittensor and Mrs. N. Westhorpe, clock golf was in Miss D. M. Jones' care and was won by Mrs. H. A. Williscroft. In charge of bowling and schoela, were Mr. C. M. Boycott and Mr. J. Tittensor, the winners being: Schoela, Miss Shirley Tittensor; bowls, Miss D. A. Cooper and Mrs. Westhorpe. Raffle winners were Mr. Collins (chocolates) and Mrs. J. C. Price (book token). The bran tub was organised by Mrs. I. V. Collins, assisted by Mrs. L. Curtis and Mrs. M. E. Wright. Refreshments were attended to by Mrs. G. E. Finnemore, Mrs. H. A. Williscroft, Mrs. E. M. Dunkey, Miss Ellen Rotchell, Mrs. M. E. Hibbs and Mrs. S. Hewitt. A clear profit of £20 was realised.

PRODUCE GUILD.—At the June meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild held in the Reading Room — Mr. T. Preston (Chairman) presiding—Mrs. M. L. Castellan gave an instructive talk on the Trent Valley, explaining the various plants that grow in this part and the types of soil in which they grow. She passed round a few to illustrate her talk. Thanks to Mrs. Castellan were expressed by Miss Ruth Ravenscroft. Points in the competition for rhubarb were awarded to: 1, Mr. T. Preston; 2, Mrs. I. Preston; 3, Mrs. E. H. Tabernor; for lemon curd to: 1, Mrs. I. Preston; 2, Mrs. C. M. Amyes, Miss Jones and Mrs. L. Jackson served tea and biscuits.

"MISS COLTON" CHOSEN.—At the request of the Village Hall Entertainment Committee, Colton Youth Club organised a dance held in the Reading Room, when Miss Valerie Marshall, of 8, Williscroft-place, Colton, was selected as "Miss Colton" from five girls in the final. Judges were Mr. and Mrs. M. Groves, Mr. and Mrs. J. Holt, and Mr. F. Roughley. Miss Christine Jones, last year's "Miss Colton," invested Miss Marshall with the sash. The raffle for two pairs of nylons was won by Mrs. Audrey Bennett. Refreshments were served by Mrs. P. L. Bannister, Mrs. M. E. Hibbs and Mrs. J. E. Norman. Dennis Hibbs was the doorkeeper.

COLTON

PRODUCE GUILD.— Business matters were somewhat prolonged at the June meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild held in the Reading Room. Various letters were read including letters of thanks from the Rural Community Council, for £15 donation, and Abbots Bromley Guild for an enjoyable evening and small gifts at the recent quiz. A reply to the letter from guild to county surveyor regarding spraying of roadside verges brought little if any satisfaction. It is hoped that the spraying will not be so extensive. Helpers were asked for at the guilds' exhibition on Rodbaston open day, at the barbecue and fete, and to plant out annuals round the War Memorial. Miss D. M. Jones, secretary, offered to represent the guild on the 'best kept' village committee, no other offers being forthcoming. The chairman welcomed Mrs M. L. Castellan who gave a talk on the Trent Valley, explaining the various plants that grow in this part and the types of soil in which they grow. She passed round a few specimens to illustrate her talk. Mrs Castellan said she was very interested in press reports of the guild's efforts and mentioned that they had the backing of the Rugeley and District Field Club. A vote of thanks to Mrs Castellan was given by Miss Ruth Ravenscroft. Points in the competition for rhubarb were awarded to: 1 Mr T. Preston; 2, Mrs I. Preston; 3, Mrs E. H. Tabernor. For lemon curd: 1, Mrs I. Preston; and 2 Mrs C. M. Amyes. Miss Jones and Mrs L. Jackson attended to tea and biscuits.

COFFEE.—A successful coffee evening was held by invitation of the Rev. and Mrs A. S. Towlson at the Rectory. Proceeds are to go to the appeal fund of Colton St. Mary's Church. Mr B. M. Williscroft and Mr A. I. D. Collins were door-keepers. The bring and buy stall was in charge of Mrs G. E. Tittensor and Mrs. Westhorpe. Clock golf was organised by Miss D. M. Jones, and this event was won by Mrs H. A. Williscroft. Bowling and schoela were in charge of Mr C. M. Boycott and Mr J. Tittensor, winners being, at Schoela, Miss Shirley Tittensor; bowls, Miss D. A. Cooper and Mrs Westhorpe; raffle, winners were Mr Collins (chocolates), and Mrs J. C. Price (book token); bran tub, organised by Mrs I. V. Collins, assisted by Mrs L. G. Curtis and Mrs M. E. Wright. Refreshments were served by Mrs G. E. Finnemore, Mrs H. A. Williscroft, Mrs E. M. Dunkey, Miss Ellen Rotchell, Mrs M E Hibbs, and Mrs S. Hewitt. A clear profit of £20 was the result of the effort. The next coffee evening for such funds will be by invitation of Mrs J. L. Taylor, at Little Hay Manor Farm in August.

DANCE.—At the request of the village hall entertainment committee, Colton youth club organised a dance in the Reading Room. Miss Valerie Marshall, of 8 Williscroft Place, Colton, was selected as "Miss Colton" from the five girls in the final. Judges were Mr and Mrs M. Groves, Mr and Mrs J. Holt, and Mr F Roughley. Miss Christine Jones last year's "Miss Colton" invested Miss Marshall with the sash. Music for dancing was supplied by The Grasshoppers Band. The raffle for two pairs of nylons was won by Mrs Audrey Bennett. Refreshments were served by Mrs P. L. Bannister, Mrs M. E. Hibbs and Mrs J. E. Norman and Dennis Hibbs was doorkeeper.

PARENT/TEACHER.—There was a good attendance at the second meeting of the newly formed Parent/Teacher Association held in Colton Village School. The chairman, Mr. D. E. Waters, presided, the secretary, Mrs. M. S. Toy, read the minutes of the first meeting, and the treasurer, Mrs. D. R. Shaw, gave financial details. It was agreed to give a small donation to the campaign for education. An invitation was received from Colwich P.T.A. to attend a meeting of their branch on July 1 to hear a talk by Mr. Dor[illegible] Nylin, a school administrator [illegible] America. It was decided to [illegible] arrange a brains trust for the [illegible] meeting. Mr. Waters introd[illegible] Hollowood of the Stude[illegible] lenes, who gave [illegible]

COLTON

W.I.—The June meeting of Colton Women's Institute took place in the Reading Room, Mrs. I. Preston, president, presiding. After the reading and confirming of the minutes, business matters attended to included the reading of a letter of appreciation from Mrs. I. R. Brown, treasurer, for flowers and card sent following the birth of her son. It was announced that Mrs. J. L. Taylor would again be the convenor of Parkside No. 1 Group. Contributions were asked for to stock the produce stall at the fete, and volunteers were asked for to collect for the Cancer Campaign. Miss D. M. Jones gave some details from a recent show committee meeting, and it was announced that the schedules could be obtained from the show secretary. The president welcomed Mr. Barton of the County Library Service, who

GUILDS WELL REPRESENTED AT RODBASTON

TIMES 22/6/63

Colton and Colwich Village Produce Guilds were well represented at the annual open day at Rodbaston Farm Institute on Saturday. The county Produce Guilds' exhibition, which had been arranged by Colton and Colwich, had as its theme "From seed time to harvest," the end being a real farmhouse supper. Tools, seeds, fertilisers etc., had been lent by a local ironmonger.

Exhibits were also staged by the Rural Community Council, the National Council for Domestic Food Production, North Staffordshire Goat Society and Staffordshire Federation of Women's Institutes.

Conducted tours were arranged and all departments of the farm institute were open for inspection, except the pig section, which was "out of bounds" owing to the prevalence of swine fever in the county.

Colton Parent-Teachers Association, at its second meeting held in the Church School on Friday, under the chairmanship of Mr D. E. Waters, received an invitation to attend a meeting of Colwich P.T.A. on July 1, to hear a talk by Mr. Donald Nylin, of Western Springs.

The meeting, which was well-attended voted a small donation to the Campaign for Education, and also decided to try to arrange a brains trust for the autumn meeting.

Mr. Hollowood, of the Studio Craft Galleries, gave a talk on the purchase of children's books and brought with him a selection for members to inspect. Mrs. M. M. Goring provided the refreshments.

Colton Village Produce Guild

MERCURY 12/7/63

Though the July meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild held in the Reading Room (Chairman Mr. T. Preston presiding) was not so well attended as usual, the display of roses in the rose competition was better than expected in view of the bad weather.

Judges were Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Timmins who awarded points in the H.T. class to: Mrs. E. Preston, Mrs. L. Jackson and Mrs. I. Preston; Floribunda class: Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. E. Preston and Mrs. I. Preston. Mr. Timmins gave the reasons for their choice.

It was announced that the Guild Hoop-la stall at the recent Barbecue raised £25. A letter of thanks for sympathy and flowers in her recent bereavement was read from Mrs. E. Thorpe, and Miss Jones said Miss C. N. L. Williscroft expressed her thanks for gift of flowers sent to her during her recent stay in hospital.

An interesting film show was given by Mr. Timmins of last years annual show. Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft thanked Mr. Timmins for showing the films.

At the June meeting of Colton W.I. held in the Reading Room under the presidency of Mrs. I. Preston, Mr. J. Barton, of the County Library Service, gave an instructive talk on the history of the public library service in which, he said, Staffordshire was the pioneer county.

TIMES

Mr. Barton who answered questions and displayed a number of books, was thanked by Mrs. N. Jones.

22/6/63

Mrs. Preston gave an account of the annual meeting of the National Federation in London.

It was announced that Mrs. J. L. Taylor would again be the convener for Parkside No. 1 Group. A letter of appreciation was read from Mrs. I. R. Brown (treasurer) for flowers and card sent on the occasion of the birth of her son.

Volunteers were requested for collecting for the British Empire Cancer Campaign.

Tea hostesses were Mrs. A. N. Felton, Mrs. J. Meddings and Mrs. J. E. Norman. The mystery prize was won by Mrs. C. M. Amyes.

TIMES 6/7/63

A coffee evening with a bring and buy stall took place at Bellamour Lodge by invitation of Mr. J. C. Price, chairman of Colton branch of the Lichfield and Tamworth Division Conservative Association. The object was to meet the prospective candidate, Mr. K. Dunkley, and his wife.

Also present were Mr. Peter Brown (divisional chairman) and Mr. N. Slipper (agent).

Mr. Dunkley said the work of the ordinary enthusiastic member in the street could do most good in an effort to win the seat for the Conservatives at the next General Election.

This view was also held by Mr. Brown and Mr. Price, the latter also suggesting that more "eye-catching posters were needed in the campaign."

To a remark by Mr. A. P. Ball that he was afraid the party was in danger of losing the vote of some farmers, Mr. Dunkley said he would be willing to go into the problems of farmers, or anyone else. If full facts and figures were given to him he would either visit people in their homes or meet them at the divisional office to go into their complaints.

Mr. Price expressed thanks to Mr. Dunkley for his visit, and Mr. Brown thanked Mr. and Mrs. Price for their hospitality.

Colton fete and barbecue profit exceeded £300

TIMES 6/7/63

At a Colton meeting last week-end, "inquest" on the recent barbecue and fete, Mr. P. J. Everall, treasurer for the recent barbecue and fete, announced that the profit would be between £300 and £350.

The chairman, Mr. J. C. Price, said thanks were due to a great number of people for their help in the event. He appealed for constructive criticism and suggestions for improvements at future events.

Mr. F. Hardcastle said that without Mr. Price the effort could not have been a success, as he had put a tremendous amount of time and thought into the venture.

Mr. Price said any offers of help at the Traction Engine Rally at Bellamour Park on July 20 and 21 would be welcomed by the committee.

COLTON

Regional 21/6/63

At the June meeting of Colton W.I. in the Reading Room, Mrs. I. Preston (President) presiding, a letter of appreciation was read from Mrs. I. R. Brown (hon. Treasurer) for flowers and card sent following the birth of her son. It was announced that Mrs. J. L. Taylor will again be the Convener of Parkside No. 1 Group. Contributions were asked for to stock the produce etc., stall at the fete, and volunteers were asked for to collect for the British Empire Cancer Campaign.

The President welcomed Mr. Barton of the County Library Service who gave an interesting talk about the history of the public library service. He was thanked by Mrs. N. Jones. Mrs. Preston the delegate to the national A.G.M. gave a lucid report. Tea hostesses were, Mrs. A. N. Felton, Mrs. June Meddings and Mrs. J. E. Norman, and the mystery prize was won by Mrs. C. M. Amyes.

PRODUCE GUILD. — The July meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild, held in the Reading Room, with Mr. T. Preston, the chairman, presiding, was not so well attended as usual, but the display of blooms in the rose competition was better than expected in view of the bad weather. Judges were Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Timmins, who awarded points in the H.T. class to: Mrs. E. Preston, Mrs. L. Jackson, and Mrs. I. Preston; floribunda class, Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. E. Preston, and Mrs. I. Preston. Mr. Timmins gave the reasons for their choice. After the reading and confirming of the minutes, business matter was discussed. It was announced that the guild hoop-la stall at the recent barbecue and fete had raised £25. A letter of thanks for sympathy and flowers in a recent bereavement was was read from Mrs. E. Thorpe. The chairman reminded members of the annual show next month and said that this year it was planned to have a stall for rooted cuttings. Mr. Timmins showed films on last year's show, and on the erection of his new home at Offley Grove. Mrs. B. M. Ravencroft thanked Mr. Timmins for visiting the guild and showing the films. Tea hostesses were Mrs. M. G. Bennett. Mrs Ravencroft and Gwendoline Ravenscroft.

OUTING. — Pupils of Colton School had an outing to London Airport, accompanied by the head master and school staff as well as some other adults. On the return journey there was a halt for tea in Eton.

The death occurred at Burton-on-Trent Infirmary, after a short illness, of Mr. Ewart Rollason Thorpe, of Manor View, 51, High Street, Colton.

TIMES

Mr. Thorpe, who was 62 and had been resident at Colton for only one year, was a native of West Bromwich. Before moving to Colton he had lived at the Post Office and Stores at Muckley Corner, Lichfield. He was employed in the signal box at Lichfield City Station, having worked on the railway since leaving school.

29/6/63

Mr. Thorpe leaves a wife and two married sons, Mr. Eric Thorpe of Stonnall, and Mr. Geoffrey Thorpe, of Muckley Corner.

The funeral took place at Stonnall on Wednesday, when floral tributes included one from Colton Village Produce Guild, of which Mr. Thorpe was a member.

TIMES 25/6/

GUILD

AT the June meetin
Colton Village Pr
Guild, Mr. T. Preston pres
a letter was received
Staffordshire Rural Comm
Council, thanking the guil
its £15 donation and an
from Abbots Bromley
expressing thanks for hos
ity at the recent quiz.

The reply from the county
veyor to the Guild's letter r
ing the spraying of roadside
gave little satisfaction to me
who expressed the hope that
ing would not be so extensive.

Members were asked to h
the Guild's exhibition on
baston's open day and a
village barbecue and fete on
21—22 and to plant flowers a
the war memorial.

Miss D. M. Jones (secr
offered to represent the gui
the Best-Kept Village Commit

Mrs. M. L. Castellan, secr
of Rugeley and District Field
was welcomed by the chai
She gave an instructive talk o
Trent Valley, explaining
various plants that grow then
the types of soil in which
thrive.

Mrs. Castellan expressed in
in the Press reports of the G
efforts to restrict roadside spe
had the backing of the Field
said Mrs. Castellan. A vo
thanks was proposed by Miss
Ravenscroft.

Points in the competition
rhubarb, were awarded as
1, Mr. T. Preston; 2, Mrs.
ton; 3, Mrs. E. H. Tabernor.
curd: 1, Mrs. I. Preston; 2,
M. Amyes.

Miss Jones and Mrs. L. Ja
served refreshments.

Rugeley Dancing School concert

MERCURY 16/7/63

The pupils of Rugeley
of Dancing (Principal Mrs.
Towlson), gave a displa
dancing at the Darby and
garden fete at Oldfield
School, Uttoxeter, on Satur
Taking part were:- C
Time, Norma Stevenson,
Mann and Susan Elliot;
Market, Junior Grade
Uttoxeter; Hungarian B
Dance, Sally Redwood; R
Krakoniak, Lynda Opie; Tyr
Twisting Dance, Annette M
with Judith Hodgkinson,
Read with Anne Madders;
Piper, Gwendoline Ravenscr
The First Spring Morning,
ley Fliessnec and Sandra
tain; Halloween, Grade 2
Uttoxeter; Little Miss M
Sheila Morrissey; The
Match Girl, Josephine J
Madison Mood, Norma Stev
Susan Mann, and Susan
Out of Town, Valerie Motu
Sally Redwood; Tarentella,
ley Tittensor.

Highland Fling, Anne Ma
Hungarian Czardas, Judith
kinson; Jota, Annette Marti
Janet Read; Chasing
Susan Oakden, Lesley Gree
and Janice Walker; Syno
Snow White, Grades 2
Classes, Rugeley; Let's
Norma Stevenson, Susan
and Susan Elliot; The C
Frolic, Grade 2 Class, Utt
Charleston, Andrew C
Scenes from "Alice in W
land", The Junior students.

July 26th 1963

MR. JOHN D. LEWIS, of Lavender Lodge, Colwich, chairman and founder member of Colwich Village Produce Guild, is in his second year as chairman of the Staffordshire Association of Village Produce Guilds, one of organisations sponsored by the Rural Community Council. In his first year of office as county chairman Mr. Lewis saw the movement grow from 11 to 14 guilds and a total membership of about 1,000.

A proud Welshman, Mr. Lewis came to Stafford in 1955 from Cheshire. By profession a chartered accountant, he is chief accountant of Universal Grinding Wheel Co., Stafford. He is chairman of a newly-formed film unit and treasurer of the Universal Hospital Fund.

He began his business life with H.M.V. at Hayes, Middlesex, and then returned home to be articled. His first job of the Midlands was when he became accountant at Dye Works at Hinckley.

During World War II he was with the Ministry of Supply as accountant at a number of Royal Ordnance factories after which he held a post at Manchester and then came to live at Marple.

Golf is Mr. Lewis's principal sport today, but in his younger days he played football in the Welsh League and also cricket. He captained Marple C.C. in the High Peak League and was also club chairman.

A founder of the recently formed Stafford and District League, he became its first chairman, and has the same position with both Colwich and Universal Working Men's Clubs. He and Mrs. Lewis play regularly in competitions with these clubs and are also interested in St. Thomas's Hospital (Stafford) Club.

Since moving to Colwich nearly four years ago, the Lewis family lived at Great Bridgeford, where Mr. Lewis joined the Village Hall committee and became its first chairman. He is a keen supporter of all that is undertaken by the Rural Community Council, is a member of its Executive Committee and chairman of the Appeals Advisory Committee.

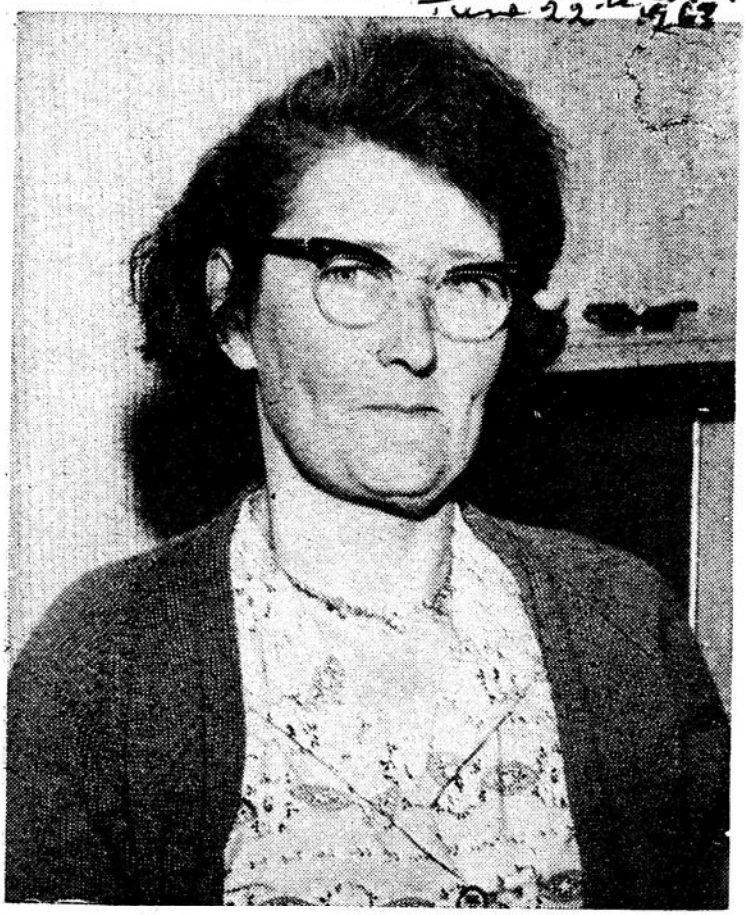
Golf is, of course, another main hobby, and Mr. Lewis has his own extensive gardens.

Mrs. Lewis, president of Colwich Women's Institute, Mrs. Lewis is a member of the County W.I. International Committee for four years and is also a member of the Women's Voluntary Service.

Their elder daughter, Anne, who teaches physical education at Rugeley Grammar School, was head girl of Stafford Girls' High School and deputy head student of Anstey College of Physical Education, Sutton Coldfield. Jill, their younger daughter, is still in training at Anstey College. When a Girl Guide she gained the coveted award of Queen's Guide.

MRS. B. M. RAVENSCROFT

June 22nd 1963



Mrs. Blanche Mary Ravenscroft, the "Times" correspondent for the Colton area, takes part in practically every village activity that is going and still seems to make time to do good turns when she finds someone in need.

Nee Bentley, she was born at Bromley Hurst, eldest of a family of six girls and one boy. After a spell in Leicestershire her family moved to Hamley Cottage Farm at Colton and she attended Admaston School for the rest of her school life.

In those days she went to Blithfield Church for Sunday school in the morning and in the afternoon she went to Colton's Sunday school. She sang in Blithfield Church choir until well into her teens, when she left to spend two years in domestic service at Stone.

In 1941 she married Mr. Cecil John Ravenscroft in Blithfield Church, and went to live at their present home, Holly Cottage, Colton. They have two daughters, Ruth Blanche, who was 17 on Saturday and is taking a secretarial course at Stafford College of Further Education, and Gwendoline Naomi, who is celebrating her 12th birthday today and attends Broadacres School, Hixon.

Mrs. Ravenscroft is very interested in good music and singing, especially church music. She has served on the Parochial Church Council for many years and has been the diocesan representative for the last three years. She is also treasurer of the Mothers' Union. Though her family no longer attend the village school, she has joined the newly-formed P.T.A. because she is interested in the life of the school.

For about 14 years she has done almost all the work on the register of electors for Colton Parish, in her husband's name, so feels justified in claiming to know the parish "fairly well!" She has acted as postwoman many times in case of need, during the last eight or nine years.

Mrs. Ravenscroft has a great interest in the Village Produce Guild movement and is treasurer of the Colton guild. She thinks that its formation has provided a most useful form of social life. She is Colton's representative on the County Executive and is also Show secretary.

She treasures the friendships made through the guild and says how nice it was last September, when she represented the county at the national annual meeting in London, to meet people who before were only names in "Village Life."

Mrs. Ravenscroft is also on the committee of Colton Women's Institute and is its Press correspondent. She has taken part in many house-to-house collections, the first being the Red Cross Rural Pennies scheme during the war, and has been an auxiliary secretary to the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen, for a number of years, organising its annual house-to-house collection in Colton.

One of her interests which might be classed as a hobby is flower arrangement. She enjoys helping to decorate the church for festivals and has an especial love of roses, which she is successful in growing from cuttings.

Times 27/7/63

At the bi-monthly meeting of the executive committee of Staffordshire Association of Village Produce Guilds Mrs B M Ravenscroft of Colton was elected Pres-

Arnold of Broston, Mothers' member visited MC for their Bar Manor Farm, of Mrs J L Taylor Mrs Arnold service and gave a thoughts on a was thanked by

THORPE. — (Ewart). Dearly loved Husband of Elizabeth, devoted Dad of Eric and Geoffrey, daughters-in-law Betty and Beryl darling Granddad of Denise and Annette, passed away June 21, 1963. Deeply mourned and sadly missed. Goodnight, God bless.

1-7-63

Mrs. Thorpe and Family wish to thank most sincerely all Relatives, Friends and Neighbours for

Times 27/7/63

BARN DANCE FOR HOAR CROSS HOME

A touch of the circus is provided by Beppo, who is seen entertaining adults and children alike with his clever balancing feats at Colton Fete. A big attraction at the barbecue was the roasting of an ox on a spit, and the picture below shows the carving operation about to com mence.

TIMES

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THE weather was k
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The fete was held at B
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Stompers. Supporting
Climax Jazz Band an
visitors were Michael S
Jack Holloway (Charles
and Tony Stobeman
Archers").

The committee were
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Pamela Lady Wolse
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attempts to modernise
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success in their project

Donkey derb

Saturday's attractio
the donkey derby.
numerous races took pla
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Beppo the Clown, pay
visit to Colton. He
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Four teams entered
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Cope (mat
Hospital)
Wolseley.

Friends of the Chase walk Colton paths

27/7/63

TIMES

Reporting RBR

The friends of Cannock Chase spent an enjoyable afternoon at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Best on Saturday. The object of the meeting was to walk a few of the Colton field paths, but those unable to walk stayed at Wharf Cottage and were taken by Mr. Best for a motor boat trip on the canal.

The remainder of the party, numbering about 30, were led by Miss Ruth B. Ravenscroft along the public footpath which runs alongside Moreton Brook, starting at a point up Hamley Lane, to Bellamour, along the public high-

29/6/63.

courage of Colton fete organisers

hildren alike with his clever
an ox on a spit, and the
mence.

THE weather was kinder to Colton last weekend than it was on the occasion of their first barbecue and fete. Then, the Saturday events were washed out last week the wind was the main trouble, but it did not curtail events and the committee should be able to hand over a good profit towards the modernisation of the Reading Room.

The fete was held at Bellamour, by permission of Mr. C. J. Price, and about 2,500 attended the dance held in a large marquee, on Friday when the star attraction was the Clyde Valley Stompers. Supporting was the Climax Jazz Band, and guest visitors were Michael Shaw and Jack Holloway (Charles Grenville and Tony Stobeman of "The Archers").

The committee were able to report next morning that they had cleared the £1,000 expense bill and all the Saturday events would be profit, so the last-minute rush of repairing gale damage to stalls and tentage on the Friday paid off.

Pamela Lady Wolseley officially opened the fete on Saturday with a tribute to the committee, for their attempts to modernise the village hall and revitalise the community spirit in Colton. She said she was happy to be sharing in this work in her small way and wished them success in their project.

Donkey derby

Saturday's attractions included the donkey derby, in which numerous races took place throughout the afternoon to the amusement of onlookers, a tug-of-war contest, and entertainment by Beppo the Clown, paying a return visit to Colton. He opened the fete last year.

Four teams entered the tug-of-war contest, Cannock Wood Colliery coming first with 9 points, followed by Staffordshire County Police (6pts.), Norton Warwickshire Colliery (3 pts.) and Shropshire County Police (nil). The individual prizes for the winning team were half tea services.

At the conclusion Colton men challenged the victors and were allowed two extra men. After

Jonathan Winfield; 2, Nichola Hollins; 3, Keith Clewes; Over one year: 1, Christopher James; 2, Shirley Devall; 3, Stephen Parr. There was a special prize for the Bennett twins, Frances and Nicholas.

The decorated perambulator class did not prove popular this year, and the first prize was given to Helen Myatt, the only entrant, with a blue and white "willow pattern" theme developed from last year's winning entry.

Terry Martin, Vernon Norman and Keith Greenwood were the winners of the slow bicycle race.

Bowling for a pig found the winner in Mr. Mosedale, of Tixall, and the bowling contest for a lamb was won by Mrs. I. V. Collins, who thus repeated their successes of last year.

The raffle for a pig was won by "Janet" of Upcotts, West Bromwich. The dressed doll was won by Nurse Thacker, and the chicken dinner on the W.I. and M.U. stalls was won by Mrs. L. Devall.

At the conclusion of the fete ex-soccer star Dennis Willshaw presented the prizes. The two-day event then concluded with a second dance to the music of the Modernaires.

Responsible for central administration and the public address system were Mr. J. C. Price (chairman), Mr. P. J. Everall (treasurer) and Mrs. Everall, Mrs. P. M. Buckley (secretary) and Christopher Buckley. General liaison was in the hands of Messrs. M. Pomlett and I. W. Bigham.

Car parking marshalls were the following:— Mr. F. Hardcastle (entrance area); Messrs. A. C. Preston, S. Jones, A. Devall, J. B. Jackson, J. T. Hurley, A. W. Haines (car lanes); Messrs. L. Kendrick, W. H. Yates, M. Beau-

There can be only one diversio n keeping these children so amused and excited, a course, the antics of Beppo, th e clown, who is now a well-known figure in the
Below: A trial of streng th and accuracy — knocking a giant nail into tim

School Sports

Colton Village School pupils held their annual sports day on Wednesday afternoon last week when the weather managed to hold fine. An encouraging number of adults attended.

FLAT RACES

Winners were:-

Girls, 7 years of age: Marian Norman and Maxine Whitehurst; 8: Christine Bennett and Delia Knight; 9: Michele Pomlett and Ann Fowell; 10: Kathleen Corden; 11: Judith Norman.

Boys, 7 years of age: Alan Bennett; 8: Aldo Monticoli; 9: Roger Bannister; 10: Anthony Wright; 11: Stephen Smith and John Curtis.

INFANTS

Girls, 5: Sandra Gamble; 6: Dorothy Curtis and Brenda Norman. Boys, 5: Ian Martin and Ronnie Barker; 6: Christopher Grimley.

Donkey races, class 1: Alexander Wright and Aldo Monticoli; class 2: John Curtis and Stephen Smith.

Skipping races, 7: Glenis Jones and Maxine Whitehurst; 8: Enid Fowell and Trudy Grimley; 9: Wendy Evans and Michele Pomlett; 10: Philippa Upton; 11: June Sargeant and Judith Norman.

Sack races, 7: Alan Bennett; Aldo Monticoli; 9: William Haynes; 10: Ian Myatt; 11: Stephen Smith.

Egg and spoon races, 7: Marian Norman and Glenis Jones; 8: Doreen Atkins; 9: Michele Pomlett; 10: Kathleen Corden; 11: June Sargeant.

Bunny hop, girls, 5: Sandra Gamble; 6: Brenda Norman. Boys, 5: Anthony Meddings; 6: Christopher Grimley.

Toddlers race: Alison Sanders and Gail Bennett: Mothers' race: Mrs. M. E. Corden.

At a school-leavers' service at St. Mary's, Colton, conducted by the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, the lesson was read by Mr. D. E. Waters (headmaster), and the organ played by Mrs. D. R. Shaw, a teacher. An address was given by Mr. H. Fletcher, of the County Education Office.

MOTHERS' UNION. — The ... meeting of Colton St. Mary's Mothers' Union members was held at Little Hay Manor Farm, by invitation of their enrolling member, Mrs. J. L. Taylor, who extended a welcome to Mrs. M. Arnold, of Brocton (former deanery presiding member). Mrs. Arnold conducted the service and gave a talk on "Some thoughts on a journey." Members' thanks to Mrs. Arnold was expressed by Mrs. E. M. Sargeant. Mrs. Taylor asked members for their help and support at the church garden party in August and also at the coffee evening she is organising for the church in August. A collection was taken for the work of the Mothers' Union overseas.

OPEN DAY. — The annual open day took place at Colton village school last week when parents were able to see their children's work and talk with the headmaster and staff.

GUILDS. — Staffordshire Association of Village Produce Guilds competed for the president's trophy in Penkridge Peace Memorial Hall. The competition took the form of a flower arrangement competition on a team basis, one team of four from each guild. Seven guilds took part and the teams were well supported by fellow members. The county chairman, Mr. J. D. Lewis (chairman of Colwich Guild), in welcoming the company, said what a pleasure it was to hold the contest at Penkridge, which is one of the new guilds. He mentioned that Penkridge guild had taken on the task of planting the traffic island, their contribution in the 'best-kept' village competition. The M.C. for the evening, Mr. F. W. Farrer (former county chairman), then took over. The timekeeper was Mr. A. Holmes, of Tittensor, and the judges were Mrs. Black, of Stafford, and Mrs. M. Fecher, of Brocton, both experienced arrangers in floral art. Before announcing the winning guild the judges made a few comments. They spoke of the high standard of the competitors and said what pleasure could be obtained from flower arranging. They remarked that this was the first time of judging at a contest of this nature done on the platform in front of the audience in six minutes. The winning guild was Hanchurch with 87 points out of 100, followed by Maer (85 points), Colwich and Tittensor tied with 79 points; Denstone 76 points; Colton 72 points, and Penkridge 69 points. The chairman called on Mr. J. W. Jones, of Maer Guild (county vice-chairman), to make the presentation to the winners on behalf of Miss J. E. L. Harrison, the president. The National Federation chairman, Mr. C. F. Horton, of Lichfield, addressed the gathering and urged them to enter the national competitions.

Two cups are competed for — the Mickleburgh Cup for an article suitable for publication in 'Village Life' and the Fitzherbert Cup for a collection of five home - made wines. A vote of thanks to judges, the Penkridge Guild and all helpers,

SPORTS DAY AT COLTON SCHOOL

PUPILS of St. Mary's School, Colton, had their annual sports on Wednesday afternoon when the weather kept fine although it was cold. An encouraging number of parents attended the sports.

Winners of the events were: Flat races—Girls, seven years: Marian Norman and Maxine Whitehurst. Girls, eight: Christine Bennett and Delia Knight; Girls, nine: Michele Pomlett and Ann Fowell; Girls, 10: Kathleen Corden; Girls, 11: Judith Norman.

Boys, seven: Alan Bennett; Boys, eight: Aldo Monticoli; Boys, nine: Roger Bannister; Boys, 10: Anthony Wright; Boys, 11: Stephen Smith and John Curtis.

Infants' flat race. Girls, five. Sandra Gamble; flat race, Girls, six: Dorothy Curtis and Brenda Norman. Flat race, Boys, five: Ian Martin and Ronnie Barker; flat race, boys, six: Christopher Grimley.

Donkey races. Class 1: Alexander Wright and Aldo Monticoli; Class 2: John Curtis and Stephen Smith. Skipping races, seven years: Glenis Jones and Maxine Whitehurst; Eight: Enid Fowell and Trudy Grimley; Nine: Wendy Evans and Michele Pomlett; 10: Phillipa Upton; 11: June Sargeant and Judith Norman.

Sack races, seven years: Alan Bennett; 8: Aldo Monticoli; nine: William Haynes; 10: Ian Myatt; 11: Stephen Smith. Egg and spoon races, seven years: Marian Norman and Glenis Jones; eight: Doreen Atkin; nine: Michele Pomlett; 10: Kathleen Corden; 11: June Sargeant.

Bunny hops, five years, girls: Sandra Gamble; six: Brenda Norman. Boys, five: Anthony Meddings. Boys, six: Christopher Grimley. Toddlers' race: Alison Sanders and Gail Bennett. Mothers' race: Mrs. M. E. Corden.

COLTON

At the June meeting of Colton W.I. held in the Reading Room, Mrs. J. L. Taylor (2nd Vice-President) presided. The result of the stall at the recent Bellamour fete was £19 12 6. An appeal was made for cakes, and help at the show on August 24.

Miss C. N. L. Williscroft sent her sincere thanks for flowers sent on her return from hospital.

A long discussion took place regarding an outing to celebrate the 25th birthday of the W.I. One or two members suggested a social evening but the matter had to be left unsettled.

Mrs. Taylor welcomed Miss S. B. Jerrett of Sandon, who gave an interesting demonstration of flower arranging. Miss Jerrett judged the competition for an arrangement in a candlestick, awarding the prize to Mrs. P. M. Hickley. Miss D. M. Jones thanked Miss Jerrett.

Tea hostesses were, Mrs. N. Jones and Mrs. M. L. Waters, and the stall was in the charge of Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft. The lottery prize went to Mrs. C. Cheetham, a visitor from Rugeley. There was a competition for a small arrangement of flowers done by Miss Jerrett, was won by Miss E. Mitchell.

After members of Colton Produce Guild, at their July meeting, held in the Reading Room had been reminded of the annual show on August 24, Mr. S. J. Timmins showed a film of last year's show.

Mr. Timmins, who was accompanied by his wife, also showed two films of the progress in erection of his new bungalow at Offley Grove, near the Shropshire—Staffordshire border. Mr. and Mrs. Timmins judged the rose competition and awarded prizes in the informal tea class to Mrs. E. Preston, Mrs. L. Jackson and Mrs. I. Preston and in the floribunda class to Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. E. Preston and Mrs. I. Preston.

It was announced that the Guild had a stall at the recent garden

AND FETE AT COLTON

At the well-attended Bellamour (Colton) barbecue and fete the Colton Village Produce Guild stall was staffed by Miss D. M. Jones, Mrs. L. Jackson, Miss Ruth Ravenscroft, Miss Christine Upton, Mr. A. N. Felton, Mrs. C. M. Aymes and Miss Joan Garwood.

On duty at the stall for cakes, &c., were members of the local Women's Institute and Mothers' Union—Mrs. Ivy Preston, Mrs. P. B. Best, Mrs. E. M. Sergeant, Mrs. D. M. Atkin, Mrs. N. Jones, Mrs. M. G. Bennett, Mrs. C. M. Sanders and Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft.

Other helpers were: "Wotta bargain" stall, Mrs. T. W. Cooper and Miss D. A. Cooper. Darts, Dennis Hibbs and other Youth Club members. Barbecue roast, Mr. Max Dean, Mr. Frank Harper and Mr. Charles Bannister (carvers), Mrs. P. L. Bannister and helpers (servers). Cash and tickets, Messrs J. F. Peet and R. Howard, Mrs. F. E. Hardcastle, Mrs. M. L. Waters and Miss Dorothy Cooper.

Officials were: Chairman, Mr. J. C. Price; Treasurer, Br. P. J. Everall; Secretary, Mrs.

candidate

By invitation of the Chairman of the Colton branch of the Lichfield and Tamworth Conservative Association, Mr. J. C. Price and Mrs. Price, a coffee evening with bring and buy stall, took place at Bellamour Lodge.

The object was to meet the prospective candidate of the Division, Mr. Kenneth Dunkley and his wife. Also present were the Divisional Chairman, Mr. Peter Brown, and Mr. Norman Slipper, Agent and Secretary.

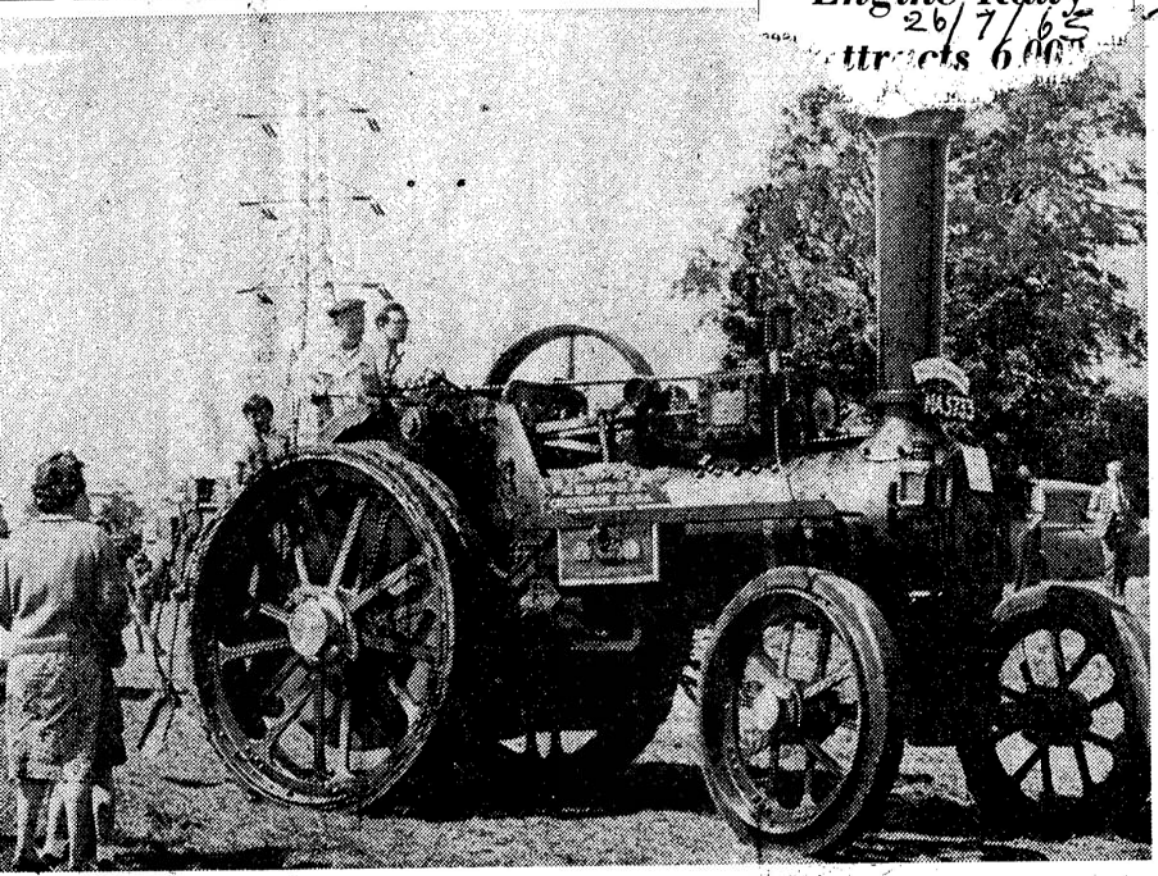
In a short address Mr. Dunkley said it was the work of the ordinary enthusiastic member in the street which could do most good in an effort to win the seat for the Conservatives in next election. This view was also held by Mr. Brown and Mr. Price, who also suggested that more "eye-catching" posters were needed in the campaign.

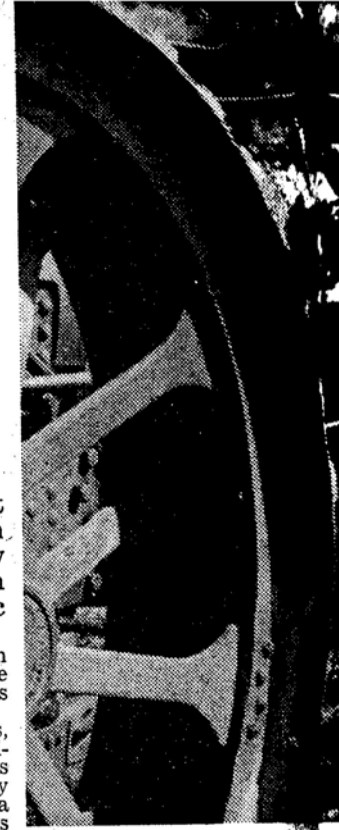
On a comment by Mr. A. P. Ball that he was afraid the party was in danger of losing some farmers' votes, Mr. Dunkley replied, he would be willing to go into the problems of farmers or anyone else, if full facts and figures were given to him he would either visit people in their

ETERAN ENGI[illegible]OWED THEIR PACES IN BIG RALLY AT COLTON

Colton Traction
MERCURY
Engine Rally
26/7/63
[illegible] tracts 6.00

TIMES 27/7/63





Attracting the interest of [illegible] visitor to the rally is a m[illegible] of the giant engine on whic[illegible] rests. And not to be out of [illegible] picture a small boy has foun[illegible] perch by its side!

THE old mingled with the new at Colton, near Rugeley last weekend, when [illegible] 60 traction engines and veteran cars were on display on land adjacent to the recently electrified main [illegible] Valley railway line. This line from London to the [illegible] almost ready for use by fast electric "locos".

The traction engines had converged on the two-days rally from Staffordshire and [illegible] tion Engine Club remained either at Bellamour Hall or with fine weekend was an attendance Saturday and 8,000

As well as soc[illegible] which was being Midlands for the a financial success amount was take[illegible] days and expenses on Saturday. The [illegible] arranged jointly by the traction engine club and Colton Village Hall Committee and the profits will be divided equally.

Commenting on the success, rally secretary Mr. David Bradbury told the "Times" there was now an even greater possibility that the rally would become a regular feature at Bellamour. This is a personal triumph for Mr. Bradbury, who has acted as a liaison officer for the two organisations.

Money for Colton Village Hall Committee, who ran a barbecue, sideshows, and stalls, will be used for the new village hall and the traction engine club's profits will help in the restoration of the club's traction engines. One of their engines, "The Admiral", a 1904 Burrell Single Crank Compound, was crewed by club members during the rally.

The rally was officially opened on Saturday afternoon by Mr. E. [illegible] Pearse, a director of Quickfit and Quartz, of Stone. Mr. Pearse has been connected with Brooklands racing track.

Immediately after the opening, traction engines and veteran cars took part in a grand parade. Immaculately polished, many of these had been restored to their original condition after being rescued from scrap heaps.

A steering problem

The afternoon programme included a steering event for women. This proved very difficult for some competitors, for whereas a car needs only one turn of the steering wheel to look to the left or right, a traction engine needs about 80 turns.

The winner of this event (Mrs. [illegible] of Stafford) had little

the winner being Miss Podm[illegible] of Kidsgrove.

Sunday afternoon's arena ev[illegible] were opened by the Presider[illegible] the North Staffordshire [illegible] Cheshire Traction Engine [illegible] Dr. J. R. Hollick.

In the morning an out[illegible] service had been conducted b[illegible] rector of Colton, the Rev. [illegible] Towlson, and the collection[illegible] £12 11s. 6d. will be given to C[illegible] Church. Of this amount £10[illegible] go to the appeal fund and [illegible] remainder to the church exp[illegible] account.

Presentation of cups was [illegible] after Sunday's events by M[illegible] C. Price, who loaned Bella[illegible] Hall for the rally.

The William Foden Chal[illegible] Cup for the best-restored, priv[illegible] owned traction engine or tr[illegible] was won by "Supremacy", a showman's engine owned by Bishop brothers, of Craven [illegible] Shropshire. This cup had [illegible] presented to the traction e[illegible] club by Mr. William F[illegible]

[illegible] a great deal of inter- "Princess Alexandra" Burrell D/C compound urpose agricultural en- ld in 1916 it was used hing until 1946. The wner-driver, who bought ine last year, is Mr. R. , of Chesterton, Staffs. the attention of the n the picture (right) is

UTIVE.—At the bi-month- ng of the executive of the shire Association of Village Guilds, the first item in arising from the minutes. appointment of a "village respondent. Mr J. E. Mar- Ashley, who has filled this r several years, is resigning M. Ravenscroft of Colton ted to be Press representa- d "village life" correspon- was agreed that £2 2s be the presentation fund for F. Fry, past national feder- chairman. Regarding the delegate to the national on annual conference in Sep- it was decided that Mair invited to do this. It was that Eaton Lodge, Rugeley, a suitable venue for the

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.—At an open meeting held eading Room of helpers at t traction engine rally in Park, Mr J. C. Price ll who had worked so well ction with the rally. He ge people's time had been o bring in outside money. extended a welcome to trac- ine committee representa- D. J. Bradbury and Mr and thanked them for peration. Mr Price went he felt special thanks were e Rev. A. S. Towlson, for g so well, the outdoor ser- ellamour Park on the Sun- ning of the rally, and for ess he gave. The takings wo days was £1,333, and expenses are paid the bal- be divided between the ngine club and the Colton ll improvement fund. Mr extended the thanks of the ngine club to Mr Price for ality, and to the Colton y for co-operation. Mr it was agreed that some social function be held for t the June barbecue and rally helpers, and it was ha; August 10 be fixed for match in Bellamour Park team from the two com- d a team from the rest of c, this followed by evening

FLORAL SHOW CONTEST

The Staffordshire Association of Village Produce Guilds competed for the president's trophy in Penkridge Peace Memorial Hall, the competition being for a flower arrangement. It was on a team basis, seven guilds taking part, including Colton and Colwich.

The winning guild was Hanchurch, with 87 points. Maer was second with 85 points and tying for third place were Colwich and Tittensor with 79 points. The Colton team were fifth with 72 points.

The M.C. for the competition was Mr. F. W. Farrer, a former county chairman, and the presentations were made by the county vice-chairman, Mr. J. W. Jones (Maer guild). An address was given bythe National Federation chairman, Mr. C. F. Horton, of Lichfield.

The competition was judged by Mrs. Black of Stafford and Mrs. M. Fecher of Brocton, both of whom are experienced arrangers in floral art.

In the Colton team were Mrs. H. Baker, Mr. L. Devall and Mr. and Mrs. T. Preston and representing Colwich were Mrs. J. Treadgold, Miss B. Harrison and Mr. and Mrs. G. Hancox.

Midlands for the
a financial succes
amount was take
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on Saturday. The

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Money for Colton Village Hall, Committee, who ran a barbecue, sideshows, and stalls, will be used for the new village hall and the traction engine club's profits will help in the restoration of the club's traction engines. One of their engines, "The Admiral", a 1904 Burrell Single Crank Compound, was cleaned by club members during the rally.

The rally was officially opened on Saturday afternoon by Mr. E. S. Pearse, a director of Quickfit and Quartz, of Stone. Mr. Pearse has been connected with Brooklands racing track.

Immediately after the opening, traction engines and veteran cars took part in a grand parade. Immaculately polished, many of these had been restored to their original condition after being rescued from scrap heaps.

A steering problem

The afternoon programme included a steering event for women. This proved very difficult for some competitors, for whereas a car needs only one turn of the steering wheel to lock to the left or right, a traction engine needs about 50 turns.

The winner of this event (Mrs. Mary Jones, of Stafford) had little or no trouble, however, in negotiating a number of posts

The only other public competition was musical chairs on Sunday,

—◆—

Some of the best weather enjoyed so far this summer favoured the rally and the picture below shows a section of the huge crowds attracted to Bellamou. on both days.

of the giant engine on whic
rests. And not to be out of
picture a small boy has foun
perch by its side!

—◆—

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club by Mr. William F
governing director of Fodens

The Ferranti Trophy, a sil
award for steam wagons prese
by Mr. S. Z. de Ferranti
Hollinwood, Lancashire, was
by Mr. W. D. J. Sparrow
Ferndown, Dorset, with his
Foden 5 ton steam wagon,
Dorset Rambler". Mr. Spa
has now won this award
three successive years.

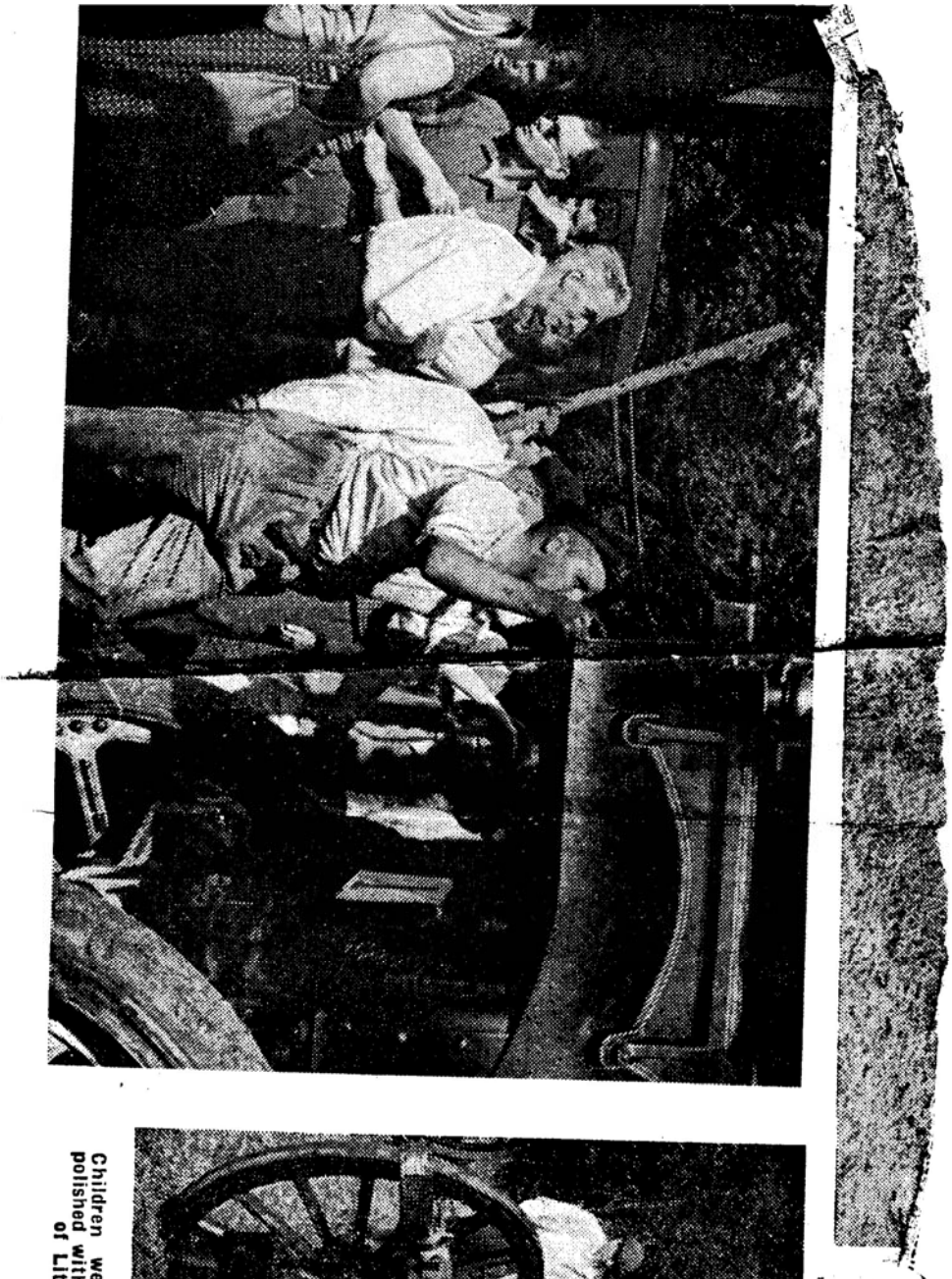
The longest journey

The award for the engine
making the longest journey
rally under its own power
Wedgwood Trophy — was wo
Mr. Walter Fearnley, who se
from Castleford, Yorkshire,
his Foden 6 ton steam wagon
on Saturday morning
arrived at the rally in the
noon. This steam wagon, bu
1928, spent most of its wo
life as a brewery lorry delive
beer. It was acquired for pr
vation in 1957.

A tankard was presented to
G. Minshall, of Bridgnorth,
owner of a Clayton 10 ton s
roller.

Among the engines not n
during the weekend was a M
weather steam fire engine, o
by Rubery Owen Ltd., of Darli
which appeared by permissio
Sir Alfred Owen.

Other attractions included
North Staffordshire Society
Model Engineers exhibition
miniature railway and an ex
tion by Rugeley Aero-Mod
Club. As well as the full
traction engines and vintage
an exhi



Competition winners at rally were Mr. A. H. Hibbs (hidden treasure), Mrs. B. Knight (dressed doll) and Mr. K. Watkins (model aircraft).

Children were fascinated by this gleaming fire engine, which had been polished with great enthusiasm in preparation for the rally by Mr. D. A. Ayers of Little Haywood, secretary of the Railway Preservation Society.

The two-day rally staged by the North Staffordshire and Cheshire Traction Engine Club at Bellamour, Colton, during the week-end, was a hugh success, both financially and socially, and there is a great possibility that it will become a regular feature at Bellamour.

More than 30 traction engines and about the same number of veteran cars were on display, a truly awe-inspiring sight. On Saturday the attendance was estimated at 6,000, and on Sunday 8,000.

A four-figure amount was taken during the two days, and expenses were easily covered. The rally had been arranged jointly by the Traction Engine Club and Colton Village Hall Committee, and the profits will be divided equally.

The Village Hall Committee's share in the proceedings included a barbecue, sideshows and stalls, and they intend using their profits for the building of the new village hall.

The rally was officially opened on Saturday afternoon by Mr. E. S. Pearse, who is a director of Quickfit and Quartz, of Stone, whilst Sunday afternoon's events were opened by the President of the North Staffordshire and Cheshire Traction Engine Club, Dr. J. R. Hollick.

After the opening on Saturday, the many spectators were given a thrill as the traction engines and veteran cars took part in a grand parade, all the machines being immaculately polished.

Among the events included in the programme were a steering event for women, and musical chairs, the latter also being won by a lady.

The William Foden Challenge Cup, awarded to the privately owned and restored traction engine or tractor, the restoration of which, in the opinion of the judges, is most meritorious, was won by a 1919 showman's engine, fondly called "Supremacy," owned by the Bishop brothers, of Craven Arms, Shropshire.

A similar award for steam waggons, the Ferranti Trophy, was won by Mr. W. D. J. Sparrow, of Ferndown, Dorset, with "The Dorset Rambler," a 1916 Foden five-ton steam waggon. Mr. Sparrow has now won the award for three successive years.

The Wedgwood Trophy, for the engine owner making the longest journey to the rally under its own power, was won by Mr. Walter Fearnley, from Castleford, Yorkshire, with his Foden six-ton steam waggon.

Among other attractions at the rally were the North Staffordshire Society of Model Engineers' exhibition and miniature railway, and an exhibition by the Rugeley Aero-Modellers Club.

Small competition winners were: Mr. K. Watkins (model aircraft), Mr. A. H. Hibbs (hidden treasure), and Mrs. B. Knight (dressed doll).

THE inspiration behind last weekend's successful traction engine and vintage car rally at Bellamour, and the moving light throughout the proceedings, was 26 years-old Mr. David John Bradbury, of Brindley Bank, Wolseley Road, Rugeley.

Born in Burntwood village, he came to Rugeley with his family when he was nine years of age, his father being a pumping station foreman. He left Aelfgar School with a scholarship to Wednesbury Technical College, the first Rugeley boy to go there, and studied general engineering as a preliminary to higher grade engineering.

He joined W. H. Dorman Ltd., the Stafford diesel engine manufacturers, as a student apprentice, when he was 16 and worked right through the factory, now being assistant to the technical manager.

A founder member of Rugeley Railway Society, which lost most of its members through moves and became amalgamated with Stafford Railway Circle, he was also on the first committee of the circle. He has held the office of chairman and is now vice-president. He was instrumental recently in getting the Dorman early locomotive relic, Isabel, erected on a plinth in Stafford Park near the railway station

Four years ago he joined the Railway Preservation Society, whose Midland branch is based in this area, and to them he has given most of the railway souveniers which he had gathered as local stations and lines closed.

Mr. Bradbury is also a member of the Stephenson Locomotive Society, whose tie he wears, and has taken part in a number of their nostalgic excursions. He says it is ironical that, while a diesel engineer, he should have so much steam in his blood!

His early interest in traction engines—of which he was scared until he was eight years-old—was reborn 18 months ago. He joined the North Staffordshire and Cheshire Traction Engine Club, with whom he now spends much of his limited spare time, and for whom he acted as liaison officer and secretary for the Belamour rally.

He is also a member of the national club, and he recently took part in the classic London to Brighton run with traction engines, one of the longest runs with "steamers" for many a year, he says. It is not surprising that he is now seeking a traction engine of his own. Tomorrow he is off to Church Stretton with Rajah, which was seen at Bellamour and is entered for an August rally.

Mr. Bradbury is keenly interested in photography and has been a member of Rugeley Photographic Society for three years, but now he specialises in traction engine and locomotive photography. He was made vice-chairman at the last annual meeting. He is also a member of the Landor Society, which he joined about seven years ago when asked to give a talk on the history of the local railway system.

A keen churchman, he is a server at St. Augustine's, where he was formerly a chorister and later a sidesman.

...oup dwellings schemes in ...ctobe... Council of ...oo...

COLTON WILL

Mrs. Alice Blore, of Colton Cottage, Colton, who died on May 22, aged 77, widow of Elijah Septimus Blore, left £14,322 9s. 7d

RALLY RESULT.—Helpers at the recent traction engine rally at Bellamour Park were welcomed by Mr. J. C. Price at the open meeting held in the Reading Room, Clifton. It

VENING.—By invitation of the Colton
Lichfield and Tam-
rvative Association, Mr
and Mrs Price, a coffee
th bring and buy stall
at Bellamour Lodge. The
the get-together was for
meet the prospective
candidate for the division, Mr K.
Dunkley and his wife. Also present
was the Conservative divisional
chairman, Mr Peter Brown, and Mr
Norman Slinger, agent and secretary to the association. Mr Dunkley
said that it was work of the ordinary enthusiastic member in the
street which could do most good in
an effort to win the seat for the
Conservatives at the next election.
Mr Price suggested that more "eye-
catching" posters were needed in the
campaign. Mr A. P. Ball said he
was afraid the party was in danger
of losing some farmers' votes, and
Mr Dunkley replying, said he
would be willing to go into the
problem of farmers or anyone else,
if the facts and figures were given
to him. He would either visit people
in their homes or meet them at the
divisional office to go into com-
mittee. Mr Price thanked Mr
Dunkley for his visit, and Mr Brown
thanked Mr and Mrs Price for their
hospitality.

ADVERTISER

MR E R THORPE.—The death has occurred at Burton-on-Trent Infirmary after a short illness of Mr Ernest Robinson Thorpe, aged 62, of Manor View, 51 High St., Colton. Mr Thorpe, who lived at Colton for a year, was a native of West Bromwich and before going to Colton lived at the post office and stores, Muckley Corner, Lichfield. He was employed in the signal box at Lichfield City station, having worked on the railway since leaving school. Mr Thorpe leaves a widow, and two married sons, Mr. Eric Thorpe of Stonnall, and Mr Geoffrey Thorpe of Muckley Corner. The funeral took place at Stonnall. Flowers from Colton friends included one from the Colton Village Produce Guild, of which Mr. Thorpe was a member. 12/7/63.

COLTON

GOLDEN DAYS—A Colton couple, Mr and Mrs Arthur Towlson, of Highcrest, 92 High Street, celebrated their golden wedding recently. Mrs Towlson, who is 75, was formerly Miss Francis Bertha Reade, and they were married on July 26, 1913 at All Saints Church, Nottingham. They went to live at Beeston, Nottinghamshire, and were there until coming to Colton some [illegible] years ago. Until he retired Mr Towlson, who is 79, was associated with Ericssons Telephones Ltd., of Beeston. Their only son is the Rector of Colton & Blithfield, the Rev A Stanley Towlson.

[illegible] members of Colton and [illegible] Women's Institute were taken for [illegible] boat trips on the canal [illegible] afternoon at [illegible] Bellamour, by the [illegible] Mrs J. A. Best. 1/8/63

[illegible] meeting [illegible] shopping at [illegible] was held at [illegible] the Rev [illegible] be chairman [illegible] secretary [illegible] village [illegible] committee. Mr [illegible] and Mrs P. L. Buckley [illegible] was willing [illegible] offer was accepted.

COILD. 1/8/63 At [illegible] of Colton [illegible] Guild held [illegible] Reading Room — the [illegible] Preston, [illegible] display of [illegible] competition [illegible] expected in [illegible] bad weather. [illegible] Mr and Mrs S. [illegible] awarded points [illegible] class Mrs. E. [illegible] Jackson and [illegible] Floribunda [illegible] Mrs. E. [illegible] Preston. [illegible] film show [illegible] minutes of [illegible] annual show. [illegible] films taken [illegible] of the

Mothers' Union

The July meeting of Colton St. Mary's Mothers' Union was held at Little Hay Manor Farm, by kind invitation of the enrolling member, Mrs. J. L. Taylor, who extended a warm welcome to Mrs. M. Arnold of Brocton (former Deanery presiding member).

Mrs. Arnold conducted the service and gave a talk on "Some thoughts on a journey."

Thanks to Mrs. Arnold were expressed by Mrs. E. W. Sargeant. Mrs. Taylor asked members for their help and support at the church garden party an August 7, and also at the coffee evening she is organising for the Church on August 17.

A collection was taken for the work of the Mothers' Union overseas.

FLORAL ART CONTEST AT PENKRIDGE

26/7/63

With 87 points out of a possible 100, Hanchurch won the Staffordshire Association of Village Produce Guilds' President's Cup for flower arrangement at the Peace Memorial Hall, Penkridge.

Seven guilds competed and other results were: 2, Maer, 85; 3 tie, Colwich and Tittensor, 79; 5, Denstone, 76; 6, Colton, 72; 7, Penkridge, 69.

Teams comprised four members from each guild. Judges were Mrs. L. Black, of Stafford, and Mrs. M. Fecher, of Brocton. M.C. was Mr. F. W. Farrer (former county chairman) and time-keeper was Mr. A. Holmes, of Tittensor.

Welcoming members, Mr. J. D. Lewis (County Chairman) said it was a pleasure to hold the contest in Penkridge, where the new guild had taken on the task of planting the traffic island as their contribution to the Best Kept Village competition.

Mr. J. W. Jones (County Vice-Chairman) made the presentations on behalf of Miss J. E. L. Harrison (President). The National Chairman (Mr. C. F. Horton) urged members to enter national competitions.

Mrs. F. Cowcill, a member of the County Executive, thanked all who had helped.

W.I.—At the June meeting of Colton Women's Institute held in the Reading Room, Mrs J. L. Taylor, vice-president, presided. After the reading and confirming of minutes, business items included the Autumn meeting at Abbots Bromley of Parkside No. 1 Group. It was stated that the result of the stall at recent Bellamour fete was £19 12s 6d. An appeal was made for cakes, and help at the show in August. It was reported that Miss C. N. L. Williscroft sent her thanks for flowers sent on her return from hospital. A long discussion took place regarding an outing to celebrate the 25th birthday of the Colton W.I., one or two members suggested a social evening, this matter had to be left unsettled. Mrs Taylor extended a welcome to Miss S. H. B. Jerrett of Sandon, who gave a demonstration on flower arranging. She did an arrangement in a brass kettle of the 16th century, with an alms plate of the 18th century again in brass placed at the back. The next was an all-green arrangement mostly of material from the hedgerows. Miss Jerrett judged the competition for an arrangement in a candlestick, awarding the prize to Mrs P. M. Buckley. Miss D. M. Jones expressed members' thanks to Miss Jerrett. Tea hostesses were Mrs N. Jones and Mrs M. L. Waters, and the stall was in charge of Mrs B. M. Ravenscroft.

TWO members of local Young Farmers' Clubs left Stafford on Saturday for a holiday in Holland.

But it will be a busman's holiday, for they are to spend their week there studying Dutch farming methods.

The travellers are Dorothy Hamar, 25-year-old secretary of Brewood club, and 21-year-old Trevor Tavernor, chairman of Stoweby-Chartley club, who were each awarded a £25 travel scholarship by the Staffordshire Federation of Young Farmers Club for being the two people who had done most for the movement in the county during the year.

Under the scheme, which is being operated in Staffordshire for the first time this year, Dorothy, who lives at The Limes, Penkridge, and Trevor of Moreton Farm, Wolseley Bridge, Stafford, will join 33 members of young farmers clubs from other parts of the country for the tour.

During their stay, they will be based in Amsterdam, and included in their crowded schedule are visits to an animal feed factory, the Westland horticultural area, a cheese market, and a pedigree Friesian herd.

Colton Golden Wedding

Mercury 2/8/63

A Colton couple, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Towlson, of Highcrest, 92 High Street, Colton, celebrated their Golden Wedding last weekend.

Mrs. Towlson, (who is 75) was Miss Francis Bertha Reade and they were married on July 26, 1913 at All Saints Church, Nottingham.

They went to live at Beeston, Notts., and were there untill coming to Colton, some 4 or 5 year's since.

Till he retired Mr. Towlson, (who is aged 79), was an Executive with Ericsson's Telephones Ltd., of Beeston.

Very interested in Gardening, Mr. Towlson, has made his garden at Highcrest most attractive. Their only son is the Rector of Colton and Blithfield, the Rev. A. Stanley Towlson.

The celebration took the form of a family party at Colton Rectory planned by the Rector and his wife as a surprise for the Golden Wedding Couple.

COLTON

BARN DANCE.—Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Toy held a barn dance on the tennis court of their home, Hamley Lodge, Colton, recently. It was very well attended, and raised over £15 for the Church of England children's home at Hoar Cross. Mr. Jack Brown was the caller, and the Lucky Seven Band provided the music. Mr. Jack Poynton fitted the lighting and Mr. J. A. Best filmed the dancing. The gatekeeper was Mr. Leslie Oevall. In the competition organised by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft the winner of the duck, given by Mr. Toy, was Mrs. Roden, and the bottle of sherry, given by Mr. C. Boycott, was won by Mr. Devall. Mrs. C. J. Wheildon and Miss Wheildon helped Mrs. I. Preston, Mrs. E. Preston and Mrs. M. E. Hibbs with the refreshments. Mrs. Wheildon thanked Mr. and Mrs. Toy, Jack Brown, and the helpers. Mrs. Toy also thanked the helpers. Mr. and Mrs. Glass and some children from Hoar Cross Home were also present. 1/8/63

Colton Mothers' Union

A pleasant afternoon was spent by members of Blithfield and

Colton walk

3/8/63

The Friends of Cannock Chase spent an enjoyable afternoon on Saturday, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Best, when the object of the meeting was to walk a of the Colton field paths.

Those unable to walk, stay Wharf Cottage, and were by Mr. Best for a trip by boat on the canal.

The remainder of the p about 30, were led by Ruth Ravenscroft along the p footpath which runs along side of the Moreton Brook, mencing at a point up Ha Lane, to Bellamour, along public highway, into the vill and then through the yard of t Forge, back through the fields the point of starting in Hamle Lane.

The party then made their way to Mr. Best's, where they had tea and were taken on the canal Some followed this up by a visit to the Traction Engine Rally in Bellamour Park. Mercury

patrons

3/8/63

Stockwell Heath, Colton, h probably never seen such crowds and activity as on Wednesday evening when, in ideal summer weather, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Toy's tennis court at Hamley Lodge was the venue for a barn dance. It was attended by about 80 people, and proceeds amounting to over £15, will go to the Church of England Children's Home at Hoar Cross.

Mr. Jack Brown was the caller and Mr. Jack Poynton had arranged fairy lights which contributed to a picturesque scene. A film of the dancing was made by Mr. J. A. Best.

In the competition organised by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, the winner of a duck, given by Mr. Toy, was Mrs. Roden, and a bottle of sherry, given by Mr. C. M. Boycott, was won by Mr. Devall.

Among those present were several of the older children from Hoar Cross, and Mr. C. J. Wheildon and Miss Wheildon, of Rugeley. Mrs. Wheildon, chairman the home's Rugeley comm thanked everyone for their spe effort for the home.

A SURPRISE family party was arranged by the Rector of Colton, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, and Mrs. Towlson at the weekend to celebrate the golden wedding of Mr. Towlson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Towlson, of Highcrest, 92, High Street, Colton.

Mr. Towlson and Miss Frances Bertha Reade were married on July 26, 1913, at All Saints' Church, Nottingham. They went to live at Beeston, Nottinghamshire, where they remained until moving to Colton four or five years ago.

Until he retired, Mr. Towlson, who is 79, was an executive with Ericsons Telephones Ltd., of Beeston. Mrs. Towlson is 74 and the Rector is their only son.

A Colton golden wedding couple

A Colton couple, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Towlson, of Highcrest, 92, High-street, have celebrated their golden wedding anniversary.

Their only son is the Rev. Stanley Towlson, the Rector of Colton and Blithfield.

The celebration took the form of a family party at Colton Rectory planned by the Rector and his wife as a surprise for the golden wedding couple, who are aged 79 and 75 respectively.

Previously at Beeston, Notts, them came to Colton some four or five years ago

COLTON

GOLDEN DAY.-A Colton couple, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Towlson, of Highcrest, 92 High Street, celebrated their golden wedding recently. Mrs. Towlson, who is 75, was formerly Miss Frances Bertha Reade, and they were married on July 26, 1913, at All Saints Church, Nottingham They went to live at Beeston, Nottinghamshire, and were there till coming to Colton some four or five years ago. Until he retired Mr. Towlson, who is 79, was an executive with Ericssons Telephones Ltd., of Beeston. Their only son is the Rector of Colton & Blithfield the Rev A. Stanley Towlson.

TRIPS -Members of Colton and Blithfield Mothers Union were taken on motor boat trips up the canal when they spent an afternoon at Wharf Cottage, Bellamour at the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Best

HELP.-An informal meeting of those interested in helping at the church garden fete was held at the Rectory. The Rector, the Rev A. S. Towlson agreed to be chairman and Miss D A. Cooper, secretary. Representatives of the village entertainment committee, Mr. [illegible] and Mrs. P. L. Bannister said the committee was willing to run up a stall. The offer was accepted

profit. The financial figure for

TROPHY For floral art

Seven Guilds took part in the flower arrangement competition in Penkridge Peace Memorial Hall for the President's trophy of the Staffordshire Association of Village Produce Guilds.

Each was represented by a team of four.

The judges, Mrs. Black, of Stafford, and Mrs. M. Fecher, of Brocton, both experienced in floral art, referred to the high standard set by the competitors and of the pleasure that could be obtained by the arranging of flowers.

Hanchurch, with 87 points out of 100, were the winners, followed by Maer (85), Colwich and Tittensor (79), Denstone (76), Colton (72) and Penkridge (69).

The trophy was presented to the winners by the county Vice-Chairman, Mr. J. W. Jones, on behalf of the President, Miss J. E. L. Harrison.

The Chairman of the National Federation, Mr. C. F. Horton, of Lichfield, urged members to enter the two national competition, one of which was for a collection of five home wines.

The County Chairman, Mr. J. D. Lewis, mentioned that Penkridge members had undertaken the task of planting the traffic island as their contribution to the "Best Kept Village" competition.

Mr. F. W. Farrer was M.C. for the evening and Mr. A. Holmes, of Tittensor, was the timekeeper.

Thanks to all who had taken part were expressed by Mrs. F. Cowcill, a member of the County Executive.

THE FRIENDS OF CANNOCK CHASE

The Friends of Cannock Chase spent an enjoyable afternoon on Saturday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Best, of Colton.

The object of the meeting was to walk a few of the Colton field paths. Those unable to walk, stayed at Wharf Cottage, and were taken by Mr. Best for a trip by motor boat on the canal.

The remainder, numbering in the region of 30, were led by Ruth B. Ravenscroft along the public footpath by the side of the Moreton Brook, commencing at a point up Hamley-lane, to Bellamour, along the public highway into the village and then through the yard of the Forge, back through the fields, to the starting point.

The party then made their way to Mr. Best's home where they had tea, and were taken on the canal

COLTON

BARN DANCE EFFORT.—In ideal weather Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Toy, of Hamley Lodge, Stockwell Heath, Colton, held a barn dance on their tennis court. As a result of this well attended and most successful event, over £15 will go to the Church of England Children's Home at Hoar Cross. Mr. Jack Brown was the caller, and "The Lucky Seven" band provided the music. Mr. Jack Poynton was responsible for the lighting and fairy lights which transformed the scene and Mr. J. A. Best filmed the dancing. The gatekeeper was Mr. Leslie Devall. In the competition organised by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft the winners were: duck (given by Mr. Toy) Mrs. Roden, bottle of Sherry (given by Mr. G. M. Bennett) Mr. Devall.

Village Produce Guilds meeting

At the bi-monthly meeting of the Executive Committee of Staffordshire Association of Village Produce Guilds Mr. J. E. Martin, of Ashley, who has been "Village Life" correspondent for some years, expressed the wish to resign and will be succeeded by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, of Colton, who will also serve as Press representative.

It was agreed that £2 2s. be sent to the Presentation Fund for Mr. R. F. Fry, past National Federation Chairman.

It was decided that Maer Guild be invited to provide the county delegate to the annual conference of the National Federation in September.

It was agreed that Eaton

GARDEN CONTEST.—Judging has taken place in the Colton Parish Council's best-kept garden competition. The judges were Messrs. Spink (father and son) and Mr. G. Allsop. There were eight entries, and the judges were most impressed, both by the work put into these gardens, and by the quality of the produce grown. The winners were as last year: Mrs. S. E. Jones, of Bleak Cottage, Stockwell Heath (who takes the Challenge

Bleak win

SILVER-HAIRED widow, Mrs. Sarah Jones, of Bleak Cottage, Stockwell Heath, Colton, has won top honours again in the village best-kept garden competition.

And now, the parish council is fixing the date for the presentation of the challenge cup to champion gardener, Sarah.

A native of Colton, Sarah carried off top prize in the competition last year.

Second in this year's competition is **Mr. Harold Bloor**, of Parchfields Farm, Trent Valley, Colton, who will receive a certificate, and **Mr. S. Jones**, of Hollow Lane, Colton, is third.

The judges said that they were most impressed by the work which had been put into the gardens and by the quality of the produce.

In Colton Parish Council's "Best Kept Garden" competition last year's award winners have repeated their successes, and Mrs. S. E. Jones, of Bleak Cottage, Stockwell Heath, again takes the challenge cup, and Mr. Harold Bloor, of Parchfields Farm, Trent Valley, has again won the certificate. In third place was Mr. S. Jones, of Hollow Lane.

The eight entries were judged on Saturday by Mr. Spink and Mr. G. Allsop, who said they were most impressed by the work that had been put into the gardens and the quality of the produce grown.

The cup and certificate will be presented at a later date.

At an open meeting of helpers at the recent traction engine rally in Bellamour Park, held in the Reading Room, Colton, Mr. J. Price thanked all who had worked so well in connection with the rally.

Mr. Price welcomed traction engine committee representatives Mr. D. J. Bradbury and Mr. Podmore, and thanked them for their co-operation at all times. He went on to say that he felt special thanks were due to the Rev. A. S. Towlson for conducting the service in Bellamour Park on the Sunday morning of the rally.

The takings on the two days totalled £1,333, and after all expenses had been paid, the balance would be divided between the Traction Engine Club and Colton Village Hall improvement fund.

Mr. Bradbury expressed the thanks of the Traction Engine Club to Mr. Price for his hospitality, and to the Colton community for their co-operation.

Mr. Price said it was agreed that some sort of a social function should be held for helpers at the June barbecue and fete and rally helpers, and it was decided that August 10 be fixed for a cricket match in Bellamour Park between a team composed of members of the two committees and a team selected from the rest of the village. The match will be followed by a social evening.

Hikers had ride home!

THE youth section of the "Friends of Cannock Chase" met at Seven Springs at 10p.m. on Saturday for the annual "spook walk."

Led by Mr. Dennis Chene, Youth Section secretary, the party journeyed for about two and a half miles through a Forestry plantation and out into Sherbrook Valley at the "Shack."

By this time, some small boys in the group had practically fallen asleep but the problem they created was solved by the arrival

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On August 25 Mr. Day, a licensed lay reader, will ... church again to conduct ... service. He left Colton ... to become headmaster of a ... Bridge, where he ... since retiring.

... the visitors, the Rec... Rev. A. S. Towlson, ... that it was their 22nd ... the series.

... the weather was ... the stalls were soon ... Proceeds from the fete, ... amounted to £100, which was ... more than last year, will go ... church funds.

... Mr. Day had opened the ... Mrs. Day was presented with ... by eight years-old Trudy ... and Mr. Day received a ... from six years-old Kevin ...

... of Colton School, Mr. D. E. Waters, proposed a vote ... to Mr. Day, and this was ... by Mr. G. Williscroft.

In the evening there was a display ... dancing.

A chicken dinner given by Mrs. D. M. Atkin was won by Mrs. Best, and a duck dinner given by Mrs. Felton was won by Roger Bannister. Mrs. F. Hardcastle won an iced cake ... by Mrs. Collins, and a dressed ... given by Mrs. J. C. Price was won by Tom Faich.

Helpers at the miscellaneous stall ... afternoon's profitable sales.

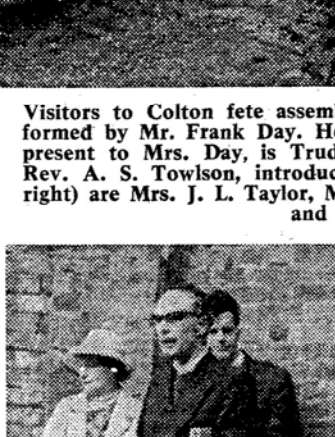
Visitors to Colton fete assemble for the opening ceremony, p... formed by Mr. Frank Day. Holding the bouquet, which she is ... present to Mrs. Day, is Trudy Grimley. Below: The Rector ... Rev. A. S. Towlson, introduces Mr. Day. Also pictured (left ... right) are Mrs. J. L. Taylor, Mr. D. E. Waters, Mr. G. Williscr... and Mrs. Day.

Winners of a bowls competition were Mr. S. Jones and Misses Janet Jones and Ruth Sharratt. Winners of bowling-through-the-hole were Mr. E. Hewitt and Mrs. E. Hustritt. Mr. B. Wain won at schoela, a Dutch game.

Stallholders were: — miscellaneous, Mrs. J. L. Taylor, Mrs. P. B. Best, Miss E. Rotchell, Mrs. G. Mellor and Mrs. S. Deacon; cakes, Mrs. N. Westhorpe and Mrs. M. S. Toy; hoop-la, Mrs. G. E. Finnemore, Mrs. F. Grimley and choir girls; bran tub, Mrs. I. Collins, and Mrs. M. E. Wright; Colton school's bottle tombola, Mrs. M. L. Waters and Mrs. D. R. Shaw; clock golf, Miss D. M. Jones and Mrs. B. Hill; buttonholes, Miss Gwendoline Ravenscroft and Miss Marilyn Collins; roll-a-penny, Miss B. Hoare; darts, Mr. W. Yeomans; ladies bowls Mr. W. Norman; gents bowls Mr. L. Jackson; penny-in-bucket, Miss Kathleen Norman; schoela, Mrs. C. Schmieglow; bowling-through-a-hole, Mr. G. Williscroft.

Teas were served by Mesdames H. A. Williscroft, H. M. Felton, D. Deacon, P. L. Bannister, R. O. Devall, I. Preston, B. M. Ravenscroft, E. Griffin, M. E. Hibbs, M. Allen, and L. M. Cooper.

Mr. A. N. Felton and Miss Ruth Ravenscroft did gate duty.



AT the annual fete held in Colton Rectory grounds in aid of the Church expenses account, the Rector, Rev. A. S. Towlson introduced Mr. and Mrs. Frank Day who opened the event.

16/5/63

Mr. Day, a former pupil of th... village school and of Rugele... Grammar School, had been ... choir boy in the choir of Colto... St. Mary's Church, living in thos... days at 8, Williscroft Plac... Colton. Mr. Day is a retire... headmaster and a licensed La... Reader.

The Deputy Rector's warde... Mr. D. E. Waters, thanked M... Day, the thanks seconded by th... peoples' warden (on whos... shoulders a lot of the work ... organising the fete lay), M... Maurice Williscroft.

Trudy Grimley presented ... bouquet to Mrs. Day, and M... Day received a buttonhole fro... Kevin Waters.

Stall holders were:- Misce... laneous, Mrs. J. L. Taylor, Mr... P. B. Best, Mrs. E. M. Sargean... Miss Ellen Rotchell, Mrs. ... Mellor; cakes, Mrs. N. We... thorpe, Mrs. M. S. Toy, and Mr... Sheila Deacon; hoop-la, Mrs. ... E. Finnemore, Mrs. F. Grimle... and choir girls.

Colton schools bottle tombol... Mrs. M. L. Waters and Mrs. ... R. Shaw; bran tub, Mrs. Ve... Collins assisted by Mrs. Jos... Wright; buttonholes, Gwendolin... Ravenscroft and Marilyn Collin...

Teas were served by Mrs. ... A. Williscroft, Mrs. D. Deaco... Mrs. H. M. Felton, Mrs. R. ... Devall, Mrs. P. L. Bannister... Mrs. Ivy Preston, Mrs. B. ... Ravenscroft, Mrs. E. Griffin, Mr... M. E. Hibbs, Mrs. M. Allerto... and Mrs. L. M. Cooper. On ga... duty were Mr. A. N. Felton, an... Miss Ruth Ravenscroft.

Bowling was won by: Gent... Mr. S. Jones, and ladies (a tie... Mrs. Collins, Miss Janet Jone... and Miss Ruth Sharratt.

Winners of competitions we... Mrs. Best (chicken dinner give... by Mrs. D. M. Atkin), Rog... Bannister (duck dinner given ... Mrs. Felton), iced cake (give... by Mrs. Collins) Mrs. F. Har...

OLTON VILLAGE PRODUCE GUILD and WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

ANNUAL SHOW

THE SCHOOL on AUGUST 24th, 1963

EXTRA FEATURES

Colton Show committee in final arrangements for the show on August 24, are including as addi-

Wednesday evening's meeting of ...ton Parish Council, presided ...er by Councillor Luke Mellor ...roved to be the shortest on ...ecord, because four members were ...due at a Parish Land Trust meet...ng the same evening. TIMES

Councillor F. Hardcastle presented plans for the proposed diversion at the brook bridge, which members are to study for discussion at their next meeting.

A letter from the county surveyor stated that it was agreed that the Trent Valley station wall created a danger spot, and that something would be done when funds were available. 17/8/63

No details having been received regarding the bus shelter, it was decided that a further letter should be sent to Lichfield Rural Council.

It was decided that the council should try to arrange for the best-kept garden competition cup and certificates to be presented in Mrs. S Jones's garden.

Councillor Mellor said he felt that further discussion was needed before next year's competition was arranged.

Repairs were authorised for the public seat in Pinfold, which it was stated, had been damaged by a reversing motor vehicle.

Estimates were accepted for repairs to the wickets on the public footpath from Pinfold to Trent Valley.

Though there were not so many entries as in previous years, the standard was good at the annual show arranged by the Colton Village Produce Guild, in conjunction with the local Women's Institute, and held in Colton School on Saturday.

Of the 58 classes in the schedule only two (the honey class and the open class for small children) failed to attract any entries at all.

Mr. J. H. Toy (the Show Chairman) welcomed Mrs. F. Cowcill, of Moss Pit, Stafford, who performed the opening ceremony. Shrine 30/8/63

Mrs. Cowcill, who is President of Acton Trussell W.I. presented the Challenge Cups to the winners who, as last year, were Mrs. Ivy Preston, of No. 7, Holding, Blithbury-road, and Mr. P. A. Preston, of Gentleshaw. She also handed Mr. Toy a special prize won in the floral class for gents only.

A bouquet was presented to Mrs. Cowcill by five-years-old Rachel Brown, and thanks to the opener were expressed by the President of Colton W.I. (Mrs. I. Preston).

A vote of thanks to the judges was expressed by the Guild Chairman (Mr. T. Preston). The judges were: Horticulture classes, Mr. J. W. Jones, of Maer, and Mr. R. W. Elliott, of Standon Hospital Gardens; cookery classes, Mrs. B. Fahey, Catering Manageress at Lancashire Dynamo Electronic Products, Ltd.; handicrafts, Mrs. E. Barton, of Newton; floral arrangements, Mrs. Naomi Alexander, of Etching Hill; wine class and eggs, Mrs. P. Salter, of Abbots Bromley.

Rummage sale yielded £20

TIMES 27/9/63

More than £20 was raised at a rummage sale organised by Colton Village Hall Entertainment Committee.

In charge of the stalls were Mrs. A. Cooper, Miss D. A. Cooper, Mesdames E. Griffin, I. V. Collins, P. L. Bannister, King, M. L. Waters, F. Hardcastle, P. M. Buckley and R.

COLTON

BARN DANCE.—Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Toy held a barn dance on the tennis court of their home, Hamley Lodge, Colton, recently. It was very well attended, and raised over £15 for the Church of England children's home at Hoar Cross. Mr. Jack Brown was the caller, and the Lucky Seven Band provided the music. Mr. Jack Poynton fitted the lighting and Mr. J. A. Best filmed the dancing. The gatekeeper was Mr. Leslie Oevall. In the competition organised by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft the winner of the duck, given by Mr. Toy, was Mrs. Roden, and the bottle of sherry, given by Mr. C. Boycott, was won by Mr. Devall. Mrs. C. J. Wheildon and Miss Wheildon helped Mrs. I. Preston, Mrs. E. Preston and Mrs. M. E. Hibbs with the refreshments. Mrs. Wheildon thanked Mr. and Mrs. Toy, Jack Brown, and the helpers. Mrs. Toy also thanked the helpers. Mr. and Mrs. Glass and some children from Hoar Cross Home were also present.

SPOOKY WALK. — The youth section of the Friends of Cannock Chase met at Severn Springs at 10 p.m. for the annual "Spooky Walk." The party, which consisted of some boys who were camping at Seven Springs, was led by Mr. Dennis Cheney, the secretary of the youth section. They went through the forest and came out in Sherbrook Valley, where the two members who had brought food shared it with the others. By this time the small boy campers had practically fallen asleep and the rest of the party were wondering how to reach the finishing point. Then the sound of horses's hooves was heard and another member appeared on his horse. The problem was solved, the little boys had a ride home. The remainder of the party walked down Sherbrook Valley to the stepping stones, and back along the main track to Seven Springs, where the walk ended at 3 a.m. ADVERTISER 5/12/63

Colton/Bellamour Barbecue and Cricket match

MERCURY 16/8/63

In celebration of this year's successful Bellamour Barbecue and Traction Engine Rally week-ends, Colton Village Hall Entertainment Committee, on Saturday organised a cricket match, and social evening.

The cricket match took place on the barbecue site at Bellamour, when cricket of a variety seldom seen was played, which even if the weather was uncertain, was a social success. The Barbecue and Traction Engine Committees team played the village team.

The village team batted first, with Ivor Hurley, and Les Myatt batting. Less than half of the team batted, as with a total of 77 runs, they declared when it looked as if they could go on all night with Hurley still not out.

Mike Pomlett's team all batted and when Podmore declared, their total was also 77 runs. The losing captain was to climb the flagpole and retrieve the flag; Pomlett made a valiant effort but was unable to succeed.

In a tastefully decorated Reading Room the social evening was well attended. Mr. M. Pomlett was M.C. and dancing and musical games were enjoyed. Mr. C. Barham of Rugeley showed a film taken at the Traction Engine Rally.

During the evening Mr. J. C. Price announced that the Entertainment Committee had a gift of a travelling clock for Miss Valerie Marshall, who on Whit Monday was chosen Miss Colton, and later Carnival Queen of Rugeley for 1963. Mrs. M. I. Waters made the presentation to Valerie.

Refreshments were attended to by Mrs. P. L. Bannister, Mrs. Waters, Mrs. P. M. Buckley, and Miss D. A. Cooper.

CRICKET extraordinary was played at Colton on Saturday, when, in celebration of the successful Bellamour barbecue and fete and traction engine rally week-ends, a barbecue and traction engine rally team met a team representing the Village Hall Committee. TIMES 17/8/63

The match was organised by the Colton Village Hall Entertainment Committee on the barbecue site, and although the weather was uncertain, the event was a great social success. The cricket match was followed by a social evening in the Reading Room.

The village team went in first, and less than half of the side batted in compiling 77 runs. But with Ivor Hurley still at the crease and looking as though he could go on all night, they declared at this total. All of the barbecue and traction engine team batted and only managed 77 runs, and the captain, Mike Pomlett, was called upon to climb the flagpole and retrieve the flag as penalty for losing the match. He made a valiant attempt, but failed.

Batting for the Village Hall Committee were Mr. A. C. Preston (captain), Mr. Ivor Hurley, Mr. L. W. Myatt, Mr. S. Jones, Mr. J. B. Jackson, Miss Janet Jones, Mr. Clifford Preston, Mr. B. T. Jackson, Miss Ruth Ravenscroft, Mrs. L. Jackson and Mr. R. Myatt. The opposing team were: Mr. M. Pomlett (captain), Mr. D. Bradbury, Mr. J. S. Podmore, Mr. D. Hibbs, Mr. J. F. Peet, Miss D. A. Cooper, Mr. F. Hardcastle, Mr. D. C. Schmieglow, Mr. P. J. Everall, Mrs. P. L. Bannister and Mrs. P. M. Buckley. Mrs. Buckley was later replaced by Mr. J. C. Price.

At the social evening, Mr. Pomlett was M.C. for dancing and musical games, and Mr. C. Barham showed a film taken at the traction engine rally. During the evening, "Miss Colton" (Valerie Marshall), who was Rugeley British Legion Carnival Queen, was presented with a travelling clock by Mrs. M. L. Walters, on behalf of the Entertainment Committee.

COLTON

W.I.—The September meeting of Colton Women's Institute was held in the Reading Room, the president, Mrs Ivy Preston, presiding. A new member, Mrs C. Barham, of Rugeley, was welcomed. The minutes of July meeting were read and confirmed and the county letter was discussed. The president said how sorry the W.I. members were to hear of the death of Mrs P. Cawthorne, who had been a post president of the institute. Flowers had been forwarded, when the funeral took place. The guest speaker welcomed by Mrs Preston was Mrs Southorn, of the Midland Counties Dairy, who gave a demonstration on various sweets which can be made using ice-cream or cream itself. Members were able to sample some of these. One cake was given for a raffle and was won by Mrs M. L. Waters. Members

Mr. Frank Taylor dies at Colton

TIMES 21/9/63

Mr. Frank Taylor, of Little Hay Manor Farm, Colton, died in the early hours of Tuesday morning, aged 67, he was a native of the Black Country and it was after his mariage in 1947 that he moved to Colton, a village he had already known for the greater part of his life.

Before his serious illness a few years ago, he worked as a con-

COLTON

PARISH COUNCIL.—A meet... of Colton Parish Council took pl... in the Reading Room. All memb... attended but the meeting proved ... be the shortest on record, owing ... a meeting of the Parish La... Trust taking place that evening ... four councillors having to go ... to attend this meeting. Counci... Luke Mellor, chairman, presi... Minutes were read and confirm... and matters arising discussed. ...garding the proposed diversion ... the brook bridge, Councillor ... Hardcastle handed round pl... which can be studied and discu... at the next meeting. A letter ... read from the county surve... regarding the problem at big ... wall Trent Valley, admitting thi... a danger spot, and that someth... will be done when funds are a... able. It was stated that the o... hanging hedge in High Street ... now been attended to. Regar... the bus shelter, no further de... were to hand at present, and it ... agreed that a further letter be ... to the Rural Council. In connec... with the council's best kept gar... competition, it was decided if ... ible. to arrange for the pres... tion of cup and certificates, in ... S. Jones' garden, at a date to ... agreed later when certificates ... ready. The chairman feels ... further discussion is needed be... next years competition. He said ... letters had been sent to all co... titors on behalf of the ... announcing the result of the co... and thanking them for their supp... Also letters to the judges expres... the Parish Council's thanks for ... interest they had taken. It was ... that the public seat in the Pin... had been damaged with a m... vehicle having backed into it, ... the legs knocked from the base. ... was agreed to repair this ... Councillor Hardcastle said ... thought it could be welded. Re... ng the repairs to wickets on ... public footpath to Trent Va... from Pinfold, it was agreed ... accept estimate so that the ... could be put in hand.

COFFEE.—A coffee evening ... held at Little Hay Manor Fa... by invitation of Mrs. J. L. Tay... The proceeds are to go to ... appeal fund of Colton St. Ma... Church. With donations £32. ... was raised. This means that ... Easter, just over £100 has b... raised by three coffee even... Helpers were: door attendant, ... E. Rotchell; bowling, Mr. C. ... Boycott, and Mr. D. E. Wa... winner being the rector, the ... A. S. Towlson. Clock golf wa... charge of Miss Ruth Ravens... winners being Mr. F. Wilki... Mr. P. W. Westhorpe and the re... Treasure hunt was won by ... Susan Hibbs and was in charg... Gwendoline and Mrs. B. M. Rav... croft. The well stocked bring ... buy stall was attended to by ... Greta Mellor, and Mrs. V. ... Towlson. Helping Mrs. Taylor ... refreshments were Mrs. M. ... Mellor, Miss Elsie Myatt, Mrs. ... Allen, Mrs. L. Bradley, Mrs. G... Halls, Mrs. M. E. Hibbs, Mrs. ... Eaton and Mrs. A. Lecke. ... chicken dinner was won by Mrs. ... Morrisey. The rector expre... thanks to Mrs. Taylor and ... helpers for the successful even...

...for church

A coffee evening held on Sa... day at Little Hay Manor F... Colton, by invitation of Mrs. ... Taylor, proved a most succes... venture for the appeal fund of ... Mary's Church, Colton. With do... tions, the sum of £32 10s. 6d. ... raised, which brings the to... realised by three coffee evenin... since Easter, to more than £100.

The bring and buy stall w... attended by Mrs. G. Mellor a... Mrs. V. M. Towlson. Helping Mrs... Taylor with refreshments we... Mesdames M. E. Mellor, E. Allen, ... Bradley, G. Halls, M. E. Hibbs, ... Eaton, A. Leeks and Miss E. Mya...

Sideshows were manned by M... C. M. Boycott and Mr. D. E. Wat... (bowling), Miss Ruth Ravenscro... (clock golf), Mrs. B. M. Ravenscro... and Gwendoline Ravenscroft (trea... ure hunt). Miss E. Rotchell w...

COLTON STANDARD IS MAINTAINED AT PRODUCE SHOW

...TON'S annual show, on Saturday, arranged jointly by the Village Produce Guild and the Women's Institute, did not draw quite as many entries as usual, but the standard ... was high. ... challenge trophies were retained by the 1962 winners.

Of the 58 classes only two, honey and an open class for small children, failed to attract any entries.

The show was opened by Mrs. F. Cowcill, of Stafford, vice-chairman of the County Federation of Women's Institutes, executive member of the County Association of Village Produce Guilds, and president of Acton Trussell Women's Institute. She said this was her first visit to Colton, though she knew many Colton people. From her view of the show she could see that a lot of time and trouble must have been taken to produce such fine exhibits "in a terrible year."

Mrs. Cowcil had been introduced by the show committee chairman, Mr. J. H. Toy, who also welcomed members of other guilds.

Mrs. Cowcill presented the challenge cups to Mrs. Ivy Preston (Women's Institute president) of No. 7, Holding, Blithbury Road, and Mr. P. A. Preston, of Gentleshaw, and a special prize to Mr. Toy for winning the men's floral class. Five years-old Rachel Brown presented Mrs. Cowcill with a bouquet.

Mrs. Preston proposed the vote of thanks to Mrs. Cowcill, and thanks to the judges were expressed by the Produce Guild chairman, Mr. T. Preston.

Judges—Horticulture, Mr. J. W. Jones (Maer), Mr. R. W. Elliott (Standon Hospital gardens); cookery, Mrs. B. Fahey (Lancashire Dynamo Electronic Products Ltd., catering manageress); handicrafts, Mrs. E. Barton (Newton); floral arrangements, Mrs. N. Alexander (Etching Hill); wine and eggs, Mrs. G. Salter (Abbots Bromley).

Mrs. Salter declared that the fine standard was higher than ever and every entry deserved a prize.

Mrs. F. Cowcill presents cups to the winning exhibitors. Left to right: Mr. J. H. Toy, Mr. G. E. D. Atkins, Mrs. F. Cowcill, Mr. P. Preston, Mrs. I. Preston (receiving cup), Mrs. K. Alexander.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS

Additional attractions were tombola (Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Preston and Mrs. R. O. Devall); bowls (Messrs. W. C. Preston, L. Devall, J. Jackson, L. Devall and J. Hall) the winners being Mr. D. Garwood, Mrs. Collins, Marian Collins and Nona Preston—and hoopla (Miss Ruth Ravenscroft assisted by Miss Christine Upton, Mrs. I. V. Collins and Miss Gwendoline Ravenscroft).

A plants and rooted cuttings stall, which proved a worth-while innovation, was in the charge of Mrs. E. Preston.

Stewards were Messrs. D. W. Garwood, J. Meddings, A. N. Hilton, G. E. D. Atkin (door) and Miss Ruth Ravenscroft. Mr. Trevor Preston, elder son of the late chairman and chief technical adviser at Ealing Parks, London, was in attendance on the judges, and assisted Miss D. M. Jones with the points chart.

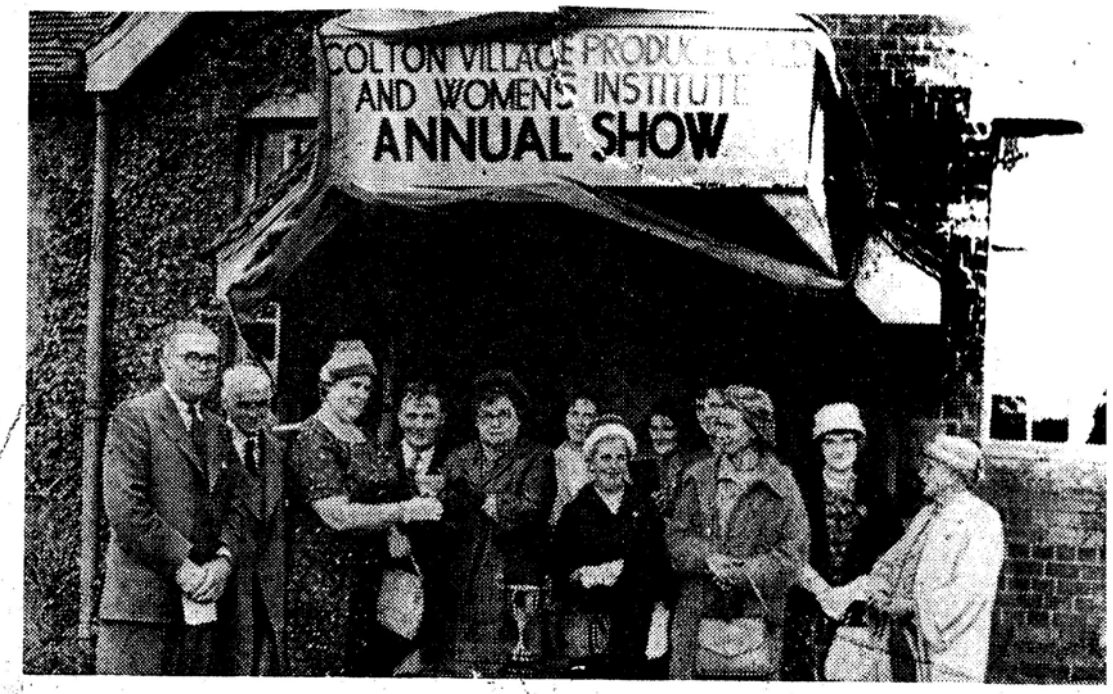
Refreshments were supervised by Mrs. Jackson, Miss Ellen Rotchell, Mesdames J. L. Taylor, E. Atkin, J. Garwood, Tabernor, Baker, M. G. Bennett, Sanders, M. E. Hibbs, J. Meddings and J. E. Norman.

The show committee consisted of Mr. J. H. Toy (chairman), Mrs. B. Ravenscroft (secretary), Mrs. I. Preston (treasurer), Miss D. M. Jones, Mrs. I. Jackson, Messrs. G. E. D. Atkin, senior, W. C. Preston, W. Garwood, Leslie Devall and P. A. Preston.

Raffle winners were Mr. G. A[illegible]yes (sherry), Mrs. J. D. Lewis (cigarettes), Mrs. J. H. Hooley (chocolates).

AWARDS

Horticulture—Potatoes (white): 1, 2 and 3, P. A. Preston; (coloured): 1, T. Preston; 2, P. Preston. Tomatoes: 1 and 2, Mrs. H. Baker; 3, Mrs. E. H. Tabernor. Onions, from seed: 1, 2 and 3, P. A. Preston; from sets: 1, 2 and 3, P. A. Preston. Shallots: 1, 2 and 3, P. A. Preston. Beet: 1, W. C. Preston; 2, P. A. Preston; 3, W. C. Preston. Runner beans: 1 and 3, P. A. Preston; 2, Mrs. H. Baker. French beans: 1, 2 and 3, P. A. Preston. Peas: 1 and 2, P. A. Preston; 3, Mrs. Baker. Carrots: 1, 2 and 3, P. A. Preston. Parsnips: 1, P. A. Preston; 2, W. C. Preston; 3, Mrs. E. Preston. Marrows: 1 and 2, Mrs. Baker; 3, P. A. Preston. Collection of six vegetables: 1, and 2, P. A. Preston; 3, Mrs. Baker.



Mrs. I. Preston and Mr. Peter Preston with their cups, and (left) Mr. J. H. Toy with his special prize for the best floral exhibit in the men's class.

Apples, desert: 1, W. C. Preston; 2, Mrs. Baker; 3, Mrs. E. Preston. Culinary: 1, Leslie Devall; 2, Mrs. Baker; 3, T. Preston. Pears: 1 and 2, Jack Brown; 3, J. H. Toy. Plums: 1, and 2, Jack Brown.

Gladioli: 1 and 2, P. A. Preston; 3, Mrs. Tabernor. Dahlias, decorative: 1, T. Preston; 2, Mrs. Baker; 3, T. Preston. Cactus: 1, 2 and 3, T. Preston. Pom-pon: 1 and 2, Mrs. Baker; 3, T. Preston. Vase of mixed annuals: 1, Mrs. I. Preston. Roses: 1, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft; 2, Mrs. E. Preston; 3, Leslie Devall. Sweet-peas: 1, P. A. Preston; 2, L. Devall; 3, P. A. Preston. Asters: 1, 2 and 3, P. A. Preston. Pansies or violas: 1, P. A. Preston; 2, W. C. Preston; 3, Miss D. M. Jones. House plant in flower 1, Miss Jones; 2, P. A. Preston; 3, Mrs. I. Preston. House plant (foliage): 1, Michael Garwood; 2, W. C. Preston; 3, Leslie Devall.

Floral arrangement in 2ft. of space: 1, Mrs. Ravenscroft; 2, Mrs. Baker; 3, Mrs. I. Preston. In kitchen untensil: 1, Mrs. E. Preston; 2, Mrs. Ravenscroft; 3, Mrs. I. Preston. Men's arrangement: 1, J. H. Toy; 2, Jack Brown; 3, Leslie Devall.

Cookery—Bottled cherries: 3, Mrs. Tabernor. Raspberry jam: 1, Mrs. L. Jackson; 2, Mrs. I. Preston; 3, Miss Ruth Ravenscroft. Three-fruit marmalade: 1, Miss Jones; 2, Mrs. I. Preston; 3, Miss Jones. Lemon curd: 1, Mrs. I. Preston; 2, Mrs. E. M. Sargeant; 3, Mrs. E. Preston. Jelly to eat with meat: 1, Mrs. I. Preston; 2, Mrs. E. Preston; 3, Mrs. Jackson. Chutney: 1, Mrs. E. Preston; 2, Mrs. C. M. Sanders; 3, Mrs. I. Preston. Cheese biscuits: 1, Mrs. E. Preston; 2 and 3, Mrs. I. Preston. Sausage rolls: 1, Mrs. I. Preston; 2, Miss R. Ravenscroft; 3, Miss Jones. Swiss roll: 1, Miss Susan Preston; 2, Mrs. E. Preston; 3, Mrs. I. Preston. Lemon meringue pie: 1, Mrs. I. Preston; 2, Mrs. E. Preston; 3, Miss Jones. Sweet loaf: 1 and 2, Mrs. E. Preston; 3, Miss Susan Preston. Home-made wine: 1, Mrs. E. Preston; 2, P. A. Preston; 3, Mrs. I. and Mrs. E. Preston.

Knitted cardigan: 1, Mrs. I. Preston; 2 and 3, Mrs. Sanders. Knitted gloves: 1, Mrs. Sargeant; white: 1, W. C. Preston; 2, Mrs. E. Preston; 3, Mrs. I. Preston.

Top-hatted Mr. Jack Brown takes on one of the "lighter" tasks of raising money. Below: Mrs. Ivy Preston, Women's Institute president, and Mrs. Cowcill.

Children's classes—Flower arrangement

...dnesday evening's meeting of ...on Parish Council, presided ...r by Councillor Luke Mellor ...ved to be the shortest on ...ecord, because four members were due at a Parish Land Trust meeting the same evening. TIMES

Councillor F. Hardcastle presented plans for the proposed diversion at the brook bridge, which members are to study for discussion at their next meeting.

A letter from the county surveyor stated that it was agreed that the Trent Valley station wall created a danger spot, and that something would be done when funds were available. 17/8/63

No details having been received regarding the bus shelter, it was decided that a further letter should be sent to Lichfield Rural Council.

It was decided that the council should try to arrange for the best-kept garden competition cup and certificates to be presented in Mrs. S Jones's garden.

Councillor Mellor said he felt that further discussion was needed before next year's competition was arranged.

Repairs were authorised for the public seat in Pinfold, which it was stated, had been damaged by a reversing motor vehicle.

Estimates were accepted for repairs to the wickets on the public footpath from Pinfold to Trent Valley.

Though there were not so many entries as in previous years, the standard was good at the annual show arranged by the Colton Village Produce Guild, in conjunction with the local Women's Institute, and held in Colton School on Saturday.

Of the 58 classes in the schedule only two (the honey class and the open class for small children) failed to attract any entries at all.

Mr. J. H. Toy (the Show Chairman) welcomed Mrs. F. Cowcill, of Moss Pit, Stafford, who performed the opening ceremony. Star 5/8/63

Mrs. Cowcill, who is President of Acton Trussell W.I. presented the Challenge Cups to the winners who, as last year, were Mrs. Ivy Preston, of No. 7, Holding, Blithbury-road, and Mr. P. A. Preston, of Gentleshaw. She also handed Mr. Toy a special prize won in the floral class for gents only.

A bouquet was presented to Mrs. Cowcill by five-years-old Rachel Brown, and thanks to the opener were expressed by the President of Colton W.I. (Mrs. I. Preston).

A vote of thanks to the judges was expressed by the Guild Chairman (Mr. T. Preston). The judges were: Horticulture classes, Mr. J. W. Jones, of Maer, and Mr. R. W. Elliott, of Standon Hospital Gardens; cookery classes, Mrs. B. Fahey, Catering Manageress at Lancashire Dynamo Electronic Products, Ltd.; handicrafts, Mrs. E. Barton, of Newton; floral arrangements, Mrs. Naomi Alexander, of Etching Hill; wine class and eggs, Mrs. P. Salter, of Abbots Bromley.

Rummage sale yielded £20

TIMES 21/9/63

More than £20 was raised at a rummage sale organised by Colton Village Hall Entertainment Committee.

In charge of the stalls were Mrs. A. Cooper, Miss D. A. Cooper, Mesdames E. Griffin, I. V. Collins, P. L. Bannister, King, M. L. Waters, F. Hardcastle, P. M. Buckley and R.

COLTON

BARN DANCE.—Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Toy held a barn dance on the tennis court of their home, Hamley Lodge, Colton, recently. It was very well attended, and raised over £15 for the Church of England children's home at Hoar Cross. Mr. Jack Brown was the caller, and the Lucky Seven Band provided the music. Mr. Jack Poynton fitted the lighting and Mr. J. A. Best filmed the dancing. The gatekeeper was Mr. Leslie Oevall. In the competition organised by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft the winner of the duck, given by Mr. Toy, was Mrs. Roden, and the bottle of sherry, given by Mr. C. Boycott, was won by Mr. Devall. Mrs. C. J. Wheildon and Miss Wheildon helped Mrs. I. Preston, Mrs. E. Preston and Mrs. M. E. Hibbs with the refreshments. Mrs. Wheildon thanked Mr. and Mrs. Toy, Jack Brown, and the helpers. Mrs. Toy also thanked the helpers. Mr. and Mrs. Glass and some children from Hoar Cross Home were also present.

SPOOKY WALK. — The youth section of the Friends of Cannock Chase met at Severn Springs at 10 p.m. for the annual "Spooky Walk." The party, which consisted of some boys who were camping at Seven Springs, was led by Mr. Dennis Cheney, the secretary of the youth section. They went through the forest and came out in Sherbrook Valley, where the two members who had brought food shared it with the others. By this time the small boy campers had practically fallen asleep and the rest of the party were wondering how to reach the finishing point. Then the sound of horses's hooves was heard and another member appeared on his horse. The problem was solved, the little boys had a ride home. The remainder of the party walked down Sherbrook Valley to the stepping stones, and back along the main track to Seven Springs, where the walk ended at 3 a.m. ADVERTISER 5/10/63

Colton/Bellamour Barbecue and Cricket match

MERCURY 16/8/63

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The cricket match took place on the barbecue site at Bellamour, when cricket of a variety seldom seen was played, which even if the weather was uncertain, was a social success. The Barbecue and Traction Engine Committees team played the village team.

The village team batted first, with Ivor Hurley, and Les Myatt batting. Less than half of the team batted, as with a total of 77 runs, they declared when it looked as if they could go on all night with Hurley still not out.

Mike Pomlett's team all batted and when Podmore declared, their total was also 77 runs. The losing captain was to climb the flagpole and retrieve the flag; Pomlett made a valiant effort but was unable to succeed.

In a tastefully decorated Reading Room the social evening was well attended. Mr. M. Pomlett was M.C. and dancing and musical games were enjoyed. Mr. C. Barham of Rugeley showed a film taken at the Traction Engine Rally.

During the evening Mr. J. C. Price announced that the Entertainment Committee had a gift of a travelling clock for Miss Valerie Marshall, who on Whit Monday was chosen Miss Colton, and later Carnival Queen of Rugeley for 1963. Mrs. M. I. Waters made the presentation to Valerie.

Refreshments were attended to by Mrs. P. L. Bannister, Mrs. Waters, Mrs. P. M. Buckley, and Miss D. A. Cooper.

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The village team went in first, and less than half of the side batted in compiling 77 runs. But with Ivor Hurley still at the crease and looking as though he could go on all night, they declared at this total. All of the barbecue and traction engine team batted and only managed 77 runs, and the captain, Mike Pomlett, was called upon to climb the flagpole and retrieve the flag as penalty for losing the match. He made a valiant attempt, but failed.

Batting for the Village Hall Committee were Mr. A. C. Preston (captain), Mr. Ivor Hurley, Mr. L. W. Myatt, Mr. S. Jones, Mr. J. B. Jackson, Miss Janet Jones, Mr. Clifford Preston, Mr. B. T. Jackson, Miss Ruth Ravenscroft, Mrs. L. Jackson and Mr. R. Myatt. The opposing team were: Mr. M. Pomlett (captain), Mr. D. Bradbury, Mr. J. S. Podmore, Mr. D. Hibbs, Mr. J. F. Peet, Miss D. A. Cooper, Mr. F. Hardcastle, Mr. D. C. Schmieglow, Mr. P. J. Everall, Mrs. P. L. Bannister and Mrs. P. M. Buckley. Mrs. Buckley was later replaced by Mr. J. C. Price.

At the social evening, Mr. Pomlett was M.C. for dancing and musical games, and Mr. C. Barham showed a film taken at the traction engine rally. During the evening, "Miss Colton" (Valerie Marshall), who was Rugeley British Legion Carnival Queen, was presented with a travelling clock by Mrs. M. L. Walters, on behalf of the Entertainment Committee.

COLTON

W.I.—The September meeting of Colton Women's Institute was held in the Reading Room, the president, Mrs Ivy Preston, presiding. A new member, Mrs C. Barham, of Rugeley, was welcomed. The minutes of July meeting were read and confirmed and the county letter was discussed. The president said how sorry the W.I. members were to hear of the death of Mrs P. Cawthorne, who had been a past president of the institute. Flowers had been forwarded, when the funeral took place. The guest speaker welcomed by Mrs Preston was Mrs Southorn, of the Midland Counties Dairy, who gave a demonstration on various sweets which can be made using ice-cream or cream itself. Members were able to sample some of these. One cake was given for a raffle and was won by Mrs M. L. Waters. Members thanks to Mrs Southorn were voiced

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Before his serious illness a few years ago, he worked as a con-

COLTON

PARISH COUNCIL.—A meeting of Colton Parish Council took place in the Reading Room. All members attended but the meeting proved to be the shortest on record, owing to a meeting of the Parish Land Trust taking place that evening and four councillors having to go on to attend this meeting. Councillor Luke Mellor, chairman, presided. Minutes were read and confirmed, and matters arising discussed. Regarding the proposed diversion at the brook bridge, Councillor F. Hardcastle handed round plans which can be studied and discussed at the next meeting. A letter was read from the county surveyor regarding the problem at big blue wall Trent Valley, admitting this is a danger spot, and that something will be done when funds are available. It was stated that the overhanging hedge in High Street had now been attended to. Regarding the bus shelter, no further details were to hand at present, and it was agreed that a further letter be sent to the Rural Council. In connection with the council's best kept garden competition, it was decided if possible, to arrange for the presentation of cup and certificates, in Mrs. S. Jones' garden, at a date to be agreed later when certificates are ready. The chairman feels that further discussion is needed before next years competition. He said that letters had been sent to all competitors on behalf of the P.C. announcing the result of the contest and thanking them for their support. Also letters to the judges expressing the Parish Council's thanks for the interest they had taken. It was stated that the public seat in the Pinfold had been damaged with a motor vehicle having backed into it, and the legs knocked from the base. It was agreed to repair this seat. Councillor Hardcastle said he thought it could be welded. Regarding the repairs to wickets on the public footpath to Trent Valley from Pinfold, it was agreed to accept estimate so that the job could be put in hand.

COFFEE.—A coffee evening was held at Little Hay Manor Farm, by invitation of Mrs. J. L. Taylor. The proceeds are to go to the appeal fund of Colton St. Mary's Church. With donations £32. 10s. was raised. This means that since Easter, just over £100 has been raised by three coffee evenings. Helpers were: door attendant, Miss E. Rotchell; bowling, Mr. C. M. Boycott, and Mr. D. E. Waters; winner being the rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson. Clock golf was in charge of Miss Ruth Ravenscroft, winners being Mr. F. Wilkinson, Mr. P. W. Westhorpe and the rector. Treasure hunt was won by Miss Susan Hibbs and was in charge of Gwendoline and Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft. The well stocked bring and buy stall was attended to by Mrs. Greta Mellor, and Mrs. V. M. Towlson. Helping Mrs. Taylor with refreshments were Mrs. M. E. Mellor, Miss Elsie Myatt, Mrs. E. Allen, Mrs. L. Bradley, Mrs. Greta Halls, Mrs. M. E. Hibbs, Mrs. C. Eaton and Mrs. A. Leeke. The chicken dinner was won by Mrs. G. Morrisey. The rector expressed thanks to Mrs. Taylor and her helpers for the successful event.

...for church

A coffee evening held on Saturday at Little Hay Manor Farm, Colton, by invitation of Mrs. J. L. Taylor, proved a most successful venture for the appeal fund of St. Mary's Church, Colton. With donations, the sum of £32 10s. 6d. was raised, which brings the total realised by three coffee evenings, since Easter, to more than £100.

The bring and buy stall was attended by Mrs. G. Mellor and Mrs. V. M. Towlson. Helping Mrs. Taylor with refreshments were Mesdames M. E. Mellor, E. Allen, L. Bradley, G. Halls, M. E. Hibbs, C. Eaton, A. Leeks and Miss E. Myatt.

Sideshows were manned by Mr. C. M. Boycott and Mr. D. E. Waters (bowling), Miss Ruth Ravenscroft (clock golf), Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft and Gwendoline Ravenscroft (treasure hunt). Miss E. Rotchell was

High standard of xhibit at Colton Village Produce Guild Show

Mercury 30/8/63

BUT NUMBERS DOWN

EVEN if the weather was uncertain on the morning of the annual Show arranged by Colton Village Produce Guild in conjunction with Colton Women's Institute held in the School on Saturday, it did manage to hold fine in the afternoon.

There were not as many entries s in previous years, but the tandard was good. Out of the 8 classes in the schedule, only wo (the Honey class and the pen class for small children) ailed to attract any entries at ll.

At the opening ceremony, the how Chairman, Mr. J. H. Toy, elcomed all visitors, and the pener, Mrs. F. Cowcill, of Moss Pit, Stafford, who is the Vice-Chairman of the County Federation of Women's Institutes, and is on the County Association Executive of Village Produce Guilds as V.I. representative. She is also resident of Acton Trussell W.I.

Mrs. Cowcill thanked Mr. Toy or his kind remarks. She said hat in her quick view of the how, it was evident that a lot of time and trouble had gone into gardens to produce such exhibits in a terrible year.

Mrs. Cowcill then presented the Challenge Cups to the winners, who were as last year, Mrs. Ivy Preston, of No. 7 Holding, Blithbury Road, and Mr. P. A. Preston, of Gentleshaw. She also handed Mr. Toy a special prize for the floral class for gents only.

A bouquet was presented to Mrs. Cowcill by 5-year-old Rachel Brown.

A vote of thanks to the opener was proposed by the President of Colton W.I., Mrs. I. Preston.

The various judges were thanked by the Guild Chairman, Mr. T. Preston. The judges were:—Horticultural Classes, Mr. J. W. Jones, of Maer, and Mr. R. W. Elliott, of Standon Hospital Gardens. Cookery Classes: Mrs. B. Fahey, Catering Manageress of Lancashire Dynamo Electronic Products Ltd. Handicrafts: Mrs. E. Barton, of Newton. Floral Arrangements: Mrs. Naomi Alexander, of Etching Hill; and Wine Class and Eggs: Mrs. P. Salter, of Abbots Bromley.

Winners in Horticultural classes were:— White potatoes: 1, 2 & 3, Mr. P. A. Preston. Coloured potatoes: 1, Mr. T. Preston; 2, Mr. P. A. Preston. Tomatoes: 1 & 2, Mrs. H. Baker; 3, Mrs. E. H. Tabernor. Onions from seed: 1, 2 & 3, P. A. Preston. Onions grown from sets: 1, 2 & 3, P. A. Preston. Shallots: 1, 2 & 3, P. A. Preston. Beet: 1, W. C. Preston; 2, P. A. Preston; 3, W. C. Preston. Runner beans: 1 & 2, P. A. Preston; 3, Mrs. Baker. French beans: 1, 2 & 3, P. A. Preston. Peas: 1 & 2, P. A. Preston; 3, Mrs. Baker. Carrots: 1, 2 & 3, P. A. Preston. Parsnips: 1, P. A. Preston; 2, W. C. Preston; 3, Mrs. Edith Preston. Cauliflower: 1, Mrs. Baker; 2, P. A. Preston; 3, W. C. Preston.

Cabbage: 1, Mrs. Baker; 2, Mr. J. H. Toy; 3, W. C. Preston. Lettuce: 1, Mrs. Baker; 2, P. A. Preston; 3, G. E. D. Atkin (sen.). Pair of marrows: 1 & 2, Mrs. Baker; 3, P. A. Preston.

Collection of 6 vegetables: 1 & P. A. Preston; 3, Mrs. Baker. Eating apples 1, W. C. Preston; Mrs. Baker; 3, Mrs. E. Preston. Cooking apples: 1, Leslie Devall; 2, Mrs. Baker; 3, T. Preston. Pears: 1 & 2, Jack Brown; 3, J. H. Toy. Plums: 1, 2 & 3, Jack Brown.

Gladioli: 1 & 2, P. A. Preston; 3 Mrs. Tabernor. Decorative dahlias: 1, T. Preston; 2, Mrs. Baker; 3, T. Preston. Cactus dahlias: 1, 2 and 3, T. Preston. Pom-pon dahlias: 1 and 2, Mrs. Baker; 3, T. Preston. Vase of mixed annuals: 1 only, Mrs. E. Preston; 2, Mrs. E. Preston; 3, Leslie Devall. Sweet peas: 1, P. A. Preston; 2, L. Devall; 3, P. A. Preston.

Asters: 1, 2 & 3, P. A. Preston. Pansies or Violas: 1, P. A. Preston; 2, W. C. Preston; 3, Miss D. M. Jones. House plant in flower: 1, Miss Jones; 2, P. A. Preston; 3, Mrs. I. Preston. House plant in foliage: 1, Michael Garwood; 2, W. C. Preston; 3, Leslie Devall.

Flower arrangement classes.—"Arrangement facing one way in 2ft. of space": 1, Mrs. Ravenscroft; 2, Mrs. Baker; 3, Mrs. I. Preston. "Arrangement in a kitchen utensil": 1, Mrs. E. Preston; 2, Mrs. Ravenscroft; 3, Mrs. I. Preston. "Arrangement for gents only": 1, J. H. Toy; 2, Jack Brown; 3, Leslie Devall.

Cooking classes— Bottled cherries, 3 only, Mrs. Tabernor. Raspberry jam: 1, Mrs. L. Jackson; 2, Mrs. Ivy Preston; 3, Miss Ruth Ravenscroft. Marmalade, 3 fruit variety: 1, Miss Jones; 2, Mrs. I. Preston; 3, Miss Jones. Lemon curd: 1, Mrs. I. Preston; 2, Mrs. E. M. Sargeant; 3, Mrs. E. Preston. "A Jelly to eat with meat": 1, Mrs. I. Preston; 2, Mrs. E. Preston; 3, Mrs. Jackson.

Chutney, any variety: 1, Mrs. E. Preston; 2, Mrs. C. M. Sanders; 3, Mrs. I. Preston. Cheese biscuits: 1, Mrs. E. Preston; 2 & 3, Mrs. Ivy Preston. Sausage rolls: 1, Mrs. I. Preston; 2, Miss Ruth Ravenscroft; 3, Miss Jones. Swiss roll: 1, Miss Susan Preston; 2 Mrs. Edith Preston; 3, Mrs. Ivy Preston.

Lemon Meringue: 1, Mrs. I. Preston; 2, Mrs. E. Preston; 3, Miss Jones. Sweet loaf: 1 & 2, Mrs. E. Preston; 3, Miss Susan Preston. Bottle home made wine: 1 Mrs. E. Preston; 2, P. A. Preston; 3, Mrs. I. & Mrs. E. Preston.

Handicrafts classes — Knitted ladies cardigan: 1, Mrs. I. Preston; 2 & 3, Mrs. Sanders. Knitted gloves: 1 only, Mrs. I. Preston. Pair of men's socks: 1, Mrs. I. Preston; 3, Miss Jones. Article from two ½-yards of material: 1, Mrs. E. Preston; 2, Mrs. I. Preston; 3, Miss Susan Preston.

Eggs — 6 brown eggs: 1 & 2, Mrs. I. Preston; 3, Mrs. Sargeant. 6 white eggs: 1, Mr. W. C. Preston; 2, Mrs. E. Preston; 3, Mrs. I. Preston.

Children's classes — Members child, age 5 to 8 years — Small arrangement of flowers: 1 only, Rachel Brown. Age 9 to 15 year — miniature garden on a dinner plate: 1, Nona Preston; 2, Gwendoline Ravenscroft; 3, Susan Preston. Open classes, age 9 to 15, as above: John McGill.

Competition winners were:—Mr. George Amyes, bottle of sherry; Mrs. J. D. Lewis, cigarettes; Mrs. J. W. Hooley, chocolates. Winners of bowls—Gents: Mr. D. W. Garwood (whisky); Ladies: Mrs. Collins (sherry). Children: Marilyn Collins and Nona Preston (chocolates).

In charge of Hoopla stall: Miss Ruth Ravenscroft, assisted by Miss Christine Upton, Mrs. I. V. Collins and Gwendoline Ravenscroft. Mrs. E. Preston had charge of the plants and cuttings stall; and in charge of Tombola were Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Preston, assisted by Mrs. R. O. Devall. On the bowling were Mr. W. C. Preston, L. Devall, B. T. Jackson, L. Devall and J. Devall.

Mr. C. E. D. Atkin, snr., is not as yet known, but the

STANDARD MADE UP DROP IN EXHIBITS

29/9/63 advertiser

EVEN if the weather was uncertain on the morning of the annual show arranged by Colton Village Produce Guild in conjunction with Colton Women's Institute and held in the school on Saturday, it did manage to hold fine in the afternoon. There were not as many entries as in previous years, but the standard was good. Out of the 58 classes in the schedule only two (the honey class and the open class for small children) failed to attract any entries at all. At the opening ceremony the show chairman, Mr. J. H. Toy, welcomed all visitors. He extended a welcome to the opener, Mrs. F. Cowcill, of Moss Pit, Stafford, who is the vice-chairman of the County Federation of Women's Institutes, and is on the County Association Executive of Village Produce Guilds as W.I. representative. She is also president of Acton Trussell Women's Institute.

Mrs. Cowcill thanked Mr. Toy for his retired. This was her first visit to Colton, but she knew quite a few Colton people. She said that in her quick view of the show, it was evident that a lot of time and trouble had gone into gardens to produce such exhibits in a terrible year. Mrs. Cowcill then presented the challenge cups to the winners who were as last year, Mrs. Ivy Preston, of No. 7, Holding, Blithbury Road, and Mr. P. A. Preston, of Gentleshaw.

She also handed Mr. Toy a special prize for the floral class for men only. A bouquet was presented to Mrs. Cowcill by five-year-old Rachel Brown.

A vote of thanks to the opener was proposed by the president of Colton W.I., Mrs. I. Preston, who said what a pleasure it was to have Mrs. Cowcill visit Colton. A vote of thanks to the judges was expressed by the guild chairman, Mr. T. Preston. The judges were: Horticultural classes, Mr. J. W. Jones, of Maer, and Mr. R. W. Elliott, of Standon Hospital Gardens: cookery classes, Mrs. B. Fahey, catering manageress at Lancashire Dynamo Electronic Products Ltd.; handicrafts, Mrs. E. Barton, of Newton; floral arrangements, Mrs. Naomi Alexander, of Etching Hill, and wine class and eggs, Mrs. P. Salter, of Abbots Bromley, who remarked that the standard of the wine this year was higher than ever. She said what a hard task it was to judge this and felt she ought to give every entry a prize. As it was she awarded two third prizes.

Winners in horticulture classes were: White potatoes: 1, 2 and 3 Mr P. A. Preston. Coloured potatoes: 1 Mr. T. Preston, 2 Mr. P. A. Preston. Tomatoes: 1 and 2 Mrs. H. Baker, 3 Mrs. E. H. Tabernor. Onions from seed: 1, 2 and 3 P. A. Preston. Onions grown from sets: 1, 2 and 3 P. A. Preston. Shallots: 1, 2 and 3 P. A. Preston. Beet: 1 W. C. Preston, 2 P. A. Preston, 3 W. C. Preston. Runner beans: 1 and 2 P. A. Preston, 3 Mrs. Baker. French beans: 1, 2 and 3 P. A. Preston. Peas: 1 and 2 P. A. Preston, 3 Mrs. Baker. Carrots: 1, 2 and 3 P. A. Preston. Parsnips: 1 P. A. Preston, 2 W. C. Preston, 3 Mrs. Edith Preston. Cauliflower: 1 Mrs. Baker, 2 P. A. Preston, 3 W. C. Preston. Cabbage: 1 Mrs. Baker, 2 Mr. J. H. Toy, 3 W. C. Preston.

Lettuce: 1 Mrs. Baker, 2 P. A. Preston, 3 G. E. D. Atkin, snr. Pair of marrows: 1 and 2 Mrs. Baker, P. A. Preston. Collection of six vegetables: 1 and 2 P. A. Preston, Mrs Baker. Eating apples: 1 W. C. Preston, 2 Mrs. Baker, 3 Mrs. E. Preston. Cooking apples: 1 Leslie Devall, 2 Mrs. Baker, 3 T. Preston. Pears: 1 and 2 Jack Brown, 3 J. H. Toy. Plums: 1, 2 and 3 Jack Brown. Gladioli: 1 and 2 P. A. Preston, 3 Mrs. Tabernor. Decorative dahlias: T. Preston, 2 Mrs. Baker, 3 T. Preston. Cactus dahlias: 1, 2 and T. Preston. Pom-pon dahlias: 1 and 2 Mrs. Baker, 3 T. Preston. Vase of mixed annuals: 1 only, Mrs. Preston. Roses: 1 Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, 2 Mrs. E. Preston, 3 Leslie Devall. Sweet peas: 1, P. A. Preston, 2 L. Devall, 3 P. A. Preston. Asters: 1, 2 and 3 P. A. Preston. Pansies or violas: 1 P. A. Preston, 2 W. C. Preston, 3 Miss D. Jones. House plant in flower: 1 Mrs Jones, 2 P. A. Preston, 3 Mrs Preston. House plant in foliage: Michael Garwood, 2 W. C. Preston, 3 Leslie Devall.

Flower arrangement classes. Arrangement facing one way in of space: 1 Mrs. Ravenscroft, 2 Baker, 3 Mrs. I. Preston. Arrangement in a kitchen utensil: 1 Mrs. Preston, 2 Mrs. Ravenscroft, 3 I. Preston. Arrangement for only: 1 J. H. Toy, 2 Jack Brown Leslie Devall. Cooking classes. Bottled cherries: 3 only, Tabernor. Raspberry jam: 1 Mrs. Jackson, 2 Mrs. Ivy Preston, 3 Ruth Ravenscroft. Marmalade, fruit variety: 1 Miss Jones, 2 I. Preston, 3 Miss Jones. Lemon curd: 1 Mrs. I. Preston, 2 Mrs. E. Sargeant, 3 Mrs. E. Preston. jelly to eat with meat': 1 Mrs. Preston, 2 Mrs. E. Preston, 3 Jackson. Chutney, any variety: Mrs. E. Preston, 2 Mrs. C. M. Sanders, 3 Mrs. I. Preston. Cheese biscuits: 1 Mrs. E. Preston, 2 and Mrs. Ivy Preston. Sausage rolls: Mrs. I. Preston, 2 Miss Ruth Ravenscroft, 3 Miss Jones. Swiss roll: 1 Miss Susan Preston, 2 Edith Preston, 3 Mrs. Ivy Preston. Lemon meringue pie: 1 Mrs. I. Preston, 2 Mrs. E. Preston, 3 Miss Jones. Sweet loaf: 1 and 2 Mrs. E. Preston, 3 Miss Susan Preston. Bottle home-made wine: 1 Mrs. E. Preston, 2 P. A. Preston, 3 Mrs. I. and Mrs. E. Preston.

Handicrafts classes. — Knitted ladies cardigan: 1 Mrs. I. Preston, and 3 Mrs. Sanders. Knitted gloves: 1 only, Mrs. I. Preston. Pair men's socks: 1 Mrs. I. Preston, Miss Jones. Article from two yards of materials: 1 Mrs. E. Preston, 2 Mrs. I. Preston, 3 Miss Susan Preston.

Eggs.—Six brown eggs: 1 and Mrs. I. Preston, 3 Mrs. Sargeant. Six white eggs: Mr. W. C. Preston, 2 Mrs. E. Preston, 3 Mrs. I. Preston.

Children's classes. — Member child aged 5 to 8 years: Small arrangement of flowers: 1 only Rachel Brown. Aged 9 to 15 years Miniature garden on a dinner plate: 1 Nona Preston, 2 Gwendoline Ravenscroft, 3 Susan Preston. Open class aged 9 to 15 as above: John McGill.

Raffle winners were Mr. George Amyes (bottle of sherry), Mrs. J. Lewis (cigarettes), Mrs. J. Hooley (chocolates). Winners of bowls: Gents., Mr. D. W. Garwood (whisky); ladies, Mrs. Collins (sherry); children, Marilyn Collins and Nona Preston (chocolates).

In charge of hoopla stall, Miss Ruth Ravenscroft, assisted by Miss Christine Upton, Mrs. I. V. Collins and Gwendoline Ravenscroft. Mrs. E. Preston had charge of the plants and cuttings stall, and in charge of tombola were Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Preston, assisted by Mrs. R. O. Devall. On the bowling were Mr. W. C. Preston, L. Devall, B. T. Jackson, L. Devall and J. Devall. Mr. G. E. D. Aktin was the duty attendant. Helping with stewarding duties were D. W. Garwood, A. Meddings, A. N. Felton, Miss Ruth Ravenscroft, Mr. Trevor Preston (elder son of the Guild chairman who is chief technical adviser at Ealing Parks, London.

The refreshment team in charge of Mrs. Jackson, were Miss Elsie Rotchell, Mrs. J. L. Taylor, Mrs. Atkin, Mrs. Joan Garwood, Mrs. Tabernor, Mrs. Baker, Mrs. M. Bennett, Mrs. Sanders, Mrs. M. Hibbs, Mrs. June Meddings and Mrs. J. E. Norman. There was a plentiful supply of home-made cakes.

The show committee this year are: Chairman, J. H. Toy; secretary, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft; treasurer, Mrs. Ivy Preston. Others are Miss D. M. Jones, Mrs. L. Jackson, Mr. G. E. D. Atkin, snr., W. C. Preston, D. W. Garwood, Leslie Devall and A. Preston. The complete result

...uild flower competition

20/9/63

DAHLIAS and chrysanthemums made a gay splash of colour in the Reading Room, at the inter-Guild competition between members of Colton and Colwich, arranged by Colton members at their September meeting.

Mr T. Preston presided, and welcomed the Colwich visitors and Mr. H. Birch and Mr. F. Brown of Brereton, who acted as judges of the blooms, awarding prizes as follows:-

Large decorative, Mr. T. Preston: medium decorative, 1, Mrs. H. Baker; 2, Mr. Preston; 3, Mrs. Baker; large cactus, 1, Mr. J. Meddings; 2, Mrs. Preston; 3, Mr. Meddings; medium cactus, 1 and 2, Mrs. Preston; 3, Mrs. Baker; pompom, 1, Mrs. Baker; 2, Mr. S. Gibson; 3, Mrs. Preston.

Vase of bedding dahlias, 1, Mr. W. C. Preston; 2, Mrs. E. H. Tabernor; 3, Mrs. M. S. Toy. Chrysanthemums, 1 and 2, Mrs. Baker; 3, Mr. Gibson.

A special given by Mr. Jack Brown went to Mrs. Baker.

The judges were thanked by Mr. J. H. Toy. A welcome was given to Mr. David Boden, a new member. The show treasurer, Mrs. Preston, presented a statement of the show accounts, which showed a slight loss of 15/11.

A competition for a Dundee cake made and given by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, to make up the slight loss at the show, was won by Mr. Percy Tabernor. It rasied £1 and put show funds on the right side.

Tea hostess was Miss D. M. Jones (hon. Secretary) assisted by Mrs. L. Jackson, and Mrs. M. G. Bennett.

Colton P.T.A. meeting

Express 27/9/63

Colton Parent-Teacher Association autumn meeting in the School provided an enjoyable and enlightening evening.

The Chairman, Mr. D. E. Waters (Headmaster) presided and welcomed a good attendance. He introduced the experts on the panel—Miss R. Raine, teacher of the under sevens group at the Pear Tree School; Mr. T. B. Smart, Headmaster of Rugeley Grammar School; Mr. D. Oakden, Headmaster of Longdon Primary School, and Mr. R. G. Bushall, County Remedial Organiser. Mr. Waters was question-master.

An excellent variety of questions were asked, and answered.

In proposing the vote of thanks to the panel, the Rector, Rev. A. S. Towlson hoped there would be more similar meetings. It was agreed that the winter meeting take the form of a social evening. Mrs. F. Grimley, and Mrs. M. G. Bennett provided refreshments.

USE CANE SPARINGLY. SAY EDUCATIONISTS

TIMES 28/9/63

A MEMBER of an education panel at the autumn meeting of Colton Parent-Teacher Association, the county remedial organiser, Mr. R. G. Bushall, said he would like to see an extra classroom to every school, and a comprehensive school tried in Rugeley.

Also on the panel were Miss R. Raine, a teacher of under-sevens at the Pear Tree School, Mr. T. B. Smart, headmaster of Rugeley Grammar School, and Mr. D. Oakden, headmaster of Longdon Primary School.

The chairman of the Parent-Teacher Association, Mr. D. E. Waters (headmaster) was question-master.

On the question of corporal punishment, Mr. Smart said the cane had certainly done good on the very few occasions he had used it, but he hated using it.

Miss Raine said one did not need to use the cane with infants, but it was "there in case," and Mr. Bushall thought it should never be taken away, although it should be used only in extreme cases.

Agreeing with these views Mr. Oakden said that only twice had he used the cane.

Asked if he favoured French being taught in primary schools, Mr. Smart said he did, provided no vital lesson was neglected.

Mr. Oakden and Miss Raine agreed with the teaching of French conversation, but Mr. Bushall said he would first like to see the English language mastered.

The panel were thanked by the Rev. A. S. Towlson.

Mr. Waters asked for help at the school whist drive on October 18 and it was announced that the winter meeting would take the form of a social evening.

Mr. D. E. Waters, headmaster of Colton Church School, with members of the brains trust panel, Mr. R. G. Bushall, M. T. B Smart, Mr. D. Oakden and Miss R.Raine.

Colton funeral of Mr. Frank Taylor

Mercury 27/9/63

The funeral service (prior to cremation at Markeaton) took place in St. Mary's Church, Colton, on Friday, of Mr. Frank Taylor, of Little Hay Manor Farm. Mr. Taylor had been Peoples' Warden at Colton for a number of years, but had resigned due to ill-health.

The choral service was conducted by the Rector, Rev. A. S. Towlson, who was assisted by Mr. D. E. Waters, Lay Reader; Mrs. G. E. Finnemore was organist. Funeral arrangements were in the hands of Mr. M. Williscroft, and bearers were: Mr. H. Plant, Mr. Luke Mellor (Blithbury), Mr. E. Warren and Mr. Rupert Evans.

Present were:— Mrs. Taylor (widow); Misses J. and G. Taylor (sisters); Mr. K. Taylor (nephew). Mr. and Mrs. G. Mellor; Mr. and Mrs. L. Mellor; Mrs. L. Mellor (Blithbury); Mr. G. Mellor (Barrow Hill); Mr. and Mrs. H. Mellor (Rocester); Mrs. H. Plant; Mr. S. H. Plant; Mrs. D. H. Plant; Mr. and Mrs. W. Grindey; Mrs. B. Powell and Mr. J. Tweedie (representing Mrs. S. Mellor); Mr. and Mrs. W. Atkins; Mrs. L. Bradley; Mrs. C. Craddock; Mr. G. Hubble; Mrs. M. Andrews; Messrs. J. Slater, H. Wilkes, C. Clark (Steelways Coleagues); Mr. G. Hunt.

Mr. D. Pollard; Mr. J. Wilde; Mr. Woodman; Mr. G. Turner; Mr. G. Williams; Mrs. E. Taylor; Mrs. A. M. Baggott; Mr. and Mrs. E. Broughton; Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Best; Mrs. D. M. Foot; Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Knight (junr.); Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Smith; Mr. J. H. Toy; Miss E. Rotchell; Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft; Mrs. W. Eaton; Mrs. H. Leeke; Mrs. F. W. Cooper; Mrs. N. Westhorpe; Miss C. N. L. Williscroft; Mrs. G. M. Upton; Mrs. W. J. Jones.

Mr. and Mrs. F. Hardcastle; Mr. and Mrs. T. Preston; Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Parr; Mr. W. Finnemore; Mrs. E. M. Sargeant; Mrs. D. M. Atkin; Mrs. M. L. Waters; Mrs. H. A. Williscroft; Mrs. E. Griffin; Mrs. A. Cooper; Mr. J. James; Mrs. Towlson; Mr. E. Hewitt; and Miss C. Burns.

Flowers included tributes from

Guilds in floral contest

TIMES 21/9/63

Dahlias and chrysanthemums made a gay splash of colour in Colton Reading Room when Colton and Colwich Village Produce Guilds held their inter-guild competition.

Mr. T. Preston, presiding at the opening welcomed the Colwich visitors and Mr. H. Birch and Mr. F. Brown, of Brereton, who judged the exhibits.

Prize winners were: large decorative: Mr. T. Preston; medium decorative: 1, Mrs. H. Baker; 2, Mr. Preston; 3, Mrs. Baker. Large cactus: 1, Mr. J. Meddings; 2, Mrs. Preston; 3, Mr. Meddings; medium cactus: 1 and 2, Mrs. Preston; 3, Mrs. Baker. Pom-pon: 1, Mrs. Baker; 2, Mr. S. Gibson; 3, Mrs. Preston. Vase of bedding dahlias: 1, Mr. W. C. Preston; 2, Mrs. E. H. Tabernor; 3, Mrs. M. S. Toy. Chrysanthemums: 1 and 2, Mrs. Baker; 3, Mr. Gibson. A special prize given by Mr. Jack Brown was awarded to Mrs. Baker.

The judges were thanked by Mr. J. H. Toy.

A new member, Mr. David Boden was welcomed, and Mrs. Preston (show treasurer) reported a loss of 15s. 11d. on the recent show. Constructive criticism and ideas for the next show were invited.

It was announced that the guild harvest supper would be held on October 5th and that Abbots Bromley was booking for a date for the horticultural quiz.

A competition for a Dundee cake, given by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft to cover the show loss, raised £1 and was won by Mr. P. Tabernor.

COLTON

Mercury 24/9/63

P.T.A. — Colton Parent-Teacher Association had its autumn meeting in the school. The chairman, Mr. D. E. Waters, headmaster, presided, and welcomed members. He also welcomed and introduced the experts on the panel—Miss R. Raine, teacher of the under sevens group at the Pear Tree School; Mr. T. B. Smart, headmaster of Rugeley Grammar School: Mr. D. Oakden, headmaster of Longdon Primary School; and Mr. R. G. Bushall, county remedial organiser. Mr. Waters was question master. Questions sent in included: What did the panel think of the old saying: "Spare the rod and spoil the child?" Mr. Smart said that on the very few occasions he had used the cane it certainly had done good but he hated to use it. Miss Raine said that with infants one did not need to use it but it was there. Mr. Bushall thought it should never be taken away but only used in extreme cases. Mr. Oakden said he agreed with the rest of the panel, he had used the cane twice. In reply to a question, If you had complete control of education system what changes, if any, would you make? Miss Raine said she would not do very much, as we do well at present she thought. Mr. Bushall would have liked to see an extra classroom to every school, and would like the county to try a comprehensive school in Rugeley. Mr. Smart felt the headmaster has to spend far too much of his time doing jobs not educational. As to if it was a good idea to teach French in primary schools, Mr. Smart thought it would as long as no vital lesson was neglected. Miss Raine was of the same opinion after all, she said, many people on the Continent speak English. Mr. Bushall would have liked to see the English language mastered. In proposing the vote of thanks to the panel, the rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson said there should be more of this sort of meeting. The chair-

TIMES 28/9/63

Mr. J. D. Lewis, of Lavender Lodge, Colwich, county chairman of Staffordshire Village Produce Guilds Association, and also chairman of Colwich guild, who, with Mrs. Lewis, attended the recent annual national conference at Roehampton, was delighted to return with the news that his county had at last won the Mabella shield.

This trophy, awarded annually to the county showing the greatest increase in membership, coupled with increased sales of "Village Life," has been held for the last two years by Suffolk. Staffordshire has narrowly missed winning it on several occasions, through inadequate "Village Life" sales.

Alderman A. N. Hillier won the third prize in the Mickleborough cup competition for an article suitable for publication in "Village Life."

Next year's conference is to be held at Keele University, the first time ever outside London.

Mr. C. F. Horton, of Lichfield, was re-elected national chairman. He has represented Staffordshire on the National Federation's executive committee since its foundation in 1952.

One of the £1 prizes in the national raffle went to Abbots Bromley.

roast potatoes

TIMES 28/9/63.

A good number of members and friends were present at the annual barbecue of the Association of Friends of Cannock Chase, held at Brindley Old Village site on Saturday evening. "Friends" of Sutton Park were also represented.

About 50 walkers, led by Mr. S. A. Seager, arrived with

DANCING

Mercury 4/10/63

Square dancing classes were resumed at Colton on Monday evening in the Reading Room, when 50 dancers were on the floor. A pleasant evening was spent, Mr. Jack Brown being the caller. The Square Dancing Committee responsible for arrangements are, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Toy, Mr. Leslie Devall (hon. treasurer), Mr. C. M. Boycott, Mr. and Mrs. T. Preston, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, Miss D. M. Jones and Mrs. L. Jackson.

Mr. D. E. Waters, Headmaster of Colton C.E. School arranged for a raffle undertaken by the school to be announced. Proceeds amounted to £8/10/-, which will be the donation from the school to Keele University Chapel appeal. The prize, two seats to Blackpool, was won by Sandra Gamble.

Dahlias and chysanthemums made a gay splash of colour in the Reading Room, Colton, at the inter-Produce Guild competition between members of Colton and Colwich, and arranged by Colton members for their September meeting. Mr. T. Preston presided.

Mr. H. Birch and Mr. F. Brown, of Brereton, who judged the blooms, awarded prizes as follow:

Dahlias, large decorative, T. Preston; medium decorative, 1, Mrs. H. Baker; 2, Mr. Preston; 3, Mrs. Baker; large cactus, 1, J. Meddings; 2, Mrs. Preston; 3, Mr. Meddings; medium cactus, 1 and 2, Mrs. Preston; 3, Mrs. Baker; pompon, 1, Mrs. Baker; 2, S. Gibson; 3, Mrs. Preston; bedding, 1, W. C. Preston; 2, Mrs. E. H. Tabernor; 3, Mrs. M. S. Toy.

Chrysanthemums: 1 and 2, Mrs. Baker; 3, Mr. Gibson; special, given by Mr. Jack Brown, Mrs. Baker.

"ANY QUESTIONS?"

5/10/63

was a feature of the autumn meeting of the Colton Parent-Teacher Association held in the School last week. The Chairman, Mr. D. E. Waters (Headmaster) presided and welcomed a very good attendance of members. He also introduced the experts on the panel—Miss R. Raine, teacher of the under sevens group at the Pear Tree School; Mr. T. B. Smart, Headmaster of Rugeley Grammar School; Mr. D. Oakden, Headmaster of Longdon Primary School; and Mr. R. G. Bushall, County Remedial Organiser. Mr. Waters was Question Master. A wide variety of questions were put and answered. Mrs. F. Grimley and Mrs. M. G. Bennett provided refreshments.

Colton. — The September meeting was held in the Reading Room, the President (Mrs. Ivy Preston) presiding. A new member, Mrs. C. Barham, of Rugeley, was welcomed. The President said how sorry all were to hear of the death of Mrs. P. Cawthorne, a past President of the Institute. The guest speaker was Mrs. Southorn, of a dairy company, who gave an interesting (and mouth-watering) demonstration on various sweets, using ice-cream or cream itself. Members were able to sample some of these. One cake, given for a raffle, was won by Mrs. M. L. Waters. The members' thanks to Mrs. Southorn were voiced by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft. Tea hostesses were Mrs. M. G. Bennett, Mrs. C. M. Sanders and Mrs. M. C. Harvey. Mrs. D. M. Atkin had charge of

Farmer and churchman

THE LATE MR. F. TAYLOR

Many friends joined relatives in a last tribute of respect at the funeral service at St. Mary's Church, Colton, for Mr. Frank Taylor, of Little Hay Manor Farm, Colton.

Mr. Taylor had been People's Warden at Colton Church for a number of years before resigning on account of ill health.

The Rector (the Rev. A. S. Towlson) conducted the funeral service assisted by Mr. D. E. Waters (Lay Reader). Mrs. G. E. Finnemore was at the organ. Cremation at Markeaton followed.

Mourners were: Mrs. Taylor (widow) Misses J. and G. Taylor (sisters), Mr. K. Taylor (nephew), Mr. and Mrs. G. Mellor, Mr. and Mrs. L. Mellor, Mrs. L. Mellor (Blithbury), Mr. G. Mellor (Barrow Hill), Mr. and Mrs. H. Mellor (Rocester), Mrs. H. Plant, Mr. S. H. Plant, Mrs. D. H. Plant, Mr. and Mrs. W. Grindley, Mrs. B. Powell and Mr. J. Tweedie (representing Mrs. S. Mellor), Mr. and Mrs. W. Atkins, Mrs. L. Bradley, Mrs. C. Craddock, Mr. G. Hubble, Mrs. M. Andrews, Messrs. J. Slater, H. Wilkes, C. Clark (Steelways colleagues), Mr. G. Hunt, Mr. D. Pollard, Mr. J. Wilde, Mr. Woodman, Mr. G. Turner, Mr. G. Williams, Mrs. E. Taylor, Mrs. A. M. Baggott, Mr. and Mrs. E. Broughton, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Best, Mrs. D. M. Foot, Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Felton, Mrs. G. A. Chilton, Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Knight jun., Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Smith, Mr. J. H. Toy, Miss E. Rotchell, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, Mrs. W. Eaton, Mrs. H. Leeke, Mrs. F. W. Cooper, Mrs. N. Westhorpe, Miss C. N. L. Williscroft, Mrs. G. M. Upton, Mrs. W. J. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. F. Hardcastle, Mr. and Mrs. T. Preston, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Parr, Mr. W. Finnemore, Mrs. E. M. Sargeant, Mrs. D. M. Atkin, Mrs. M. L. Waters, Mrs. H. A. Williscroft, Mrs. E. Griffin, Mrs. A. Cooper, Mr. J. James, Mrs. Towlson, Mr. E. Hewitt and Miss C. Burns.

Bearers were Messrs. H. Plant, Luke Mellor (Blithbury), E. Warren and Rupert Evans.

THE LATE MR. FRANK TAYLOR

Times 28/9/63

THE funeral service took place at St. Mary's Church, Colton, on Friday, for Mr. Frank Taylor, of Little Hay Manor Farm. Mr. Taylor had been people's warden at Colton for a number of years, but had resigned because of ill-health.

The choral service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, who was assisted by Mr. D. E. Waters, diocesan reader. It was followed by cremation at Markeaton.

The bearers were Mr. H. Plant, Mr. Luke Mellor (Blithbury), Mr. E. Warren and Mr. Rupert Evans.

Mourners were:— Mrs. Taylor (wife); Misses J. and G. Taylor (sisters), Mr. K. Taylor (nephew), Mr. and Mrs. G. Mellor, Mr. and Mrs. L. Mellor, Mrs. L. Mellor (Blithbury), Mr. G. Mellor (Barrow Hill), Mr. and Mrs. H. Mellor (Rocester), Mrs. H. Plant, Mr. S. H. Plant, Mrs. D. H. Plant, Mr. and Mrs. W. Grindey, Mrs. B. Powell and Mr. J. Tweedie (also representing Mrs. S. Mellor), Mr. and Mrs. W. Atkins, Mrs. L. Bradley, Mrs. C. Craddock, Mr. G. Hubble, Mrs. M. Andrews, Messrs. J. Slater, H. Wilkes, and C. Clark (colleagues from Steelways Ltd.), Mr. G. Hunt, Mr. D. Pollard, Mr. J. Wilde, Mr. H. S. Woodman, Mr. G. Turner, Mr. G. Williams, Mrs. E. Taylor, Mrs. A. M. Baggott.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Broughton, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Best, Mrs. D. M. Foot, Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Felton, Mrs. G. A. Chilton, Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Knight, juniors, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Smith, Mr. J. H. Toy, Miss. E. Rotchell, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, Mrs. W. Eaton, Mrs. H. Leeke, Mrs. F. W. Cooper, Mrs. N. Westhorpe, Miss C. N. L. Williscroft, Mrs. G. M. Upton, Mrs. W. J. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. F. Hardcastle, Mr. and Mrs. T. Preston, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Parr, Mr. W. Finnemore, Mrs. E. M. Sargeant, Mrs. D. M. Atkin, Mrs. M. L. Waters, Mrs. H. A. Williscroft, Mrs. E. Griffin, Mrs. A. Cooper, Mr. J. James, Mrs. Towlson, Mr. E. Hewitt and Miss C. Burns.

Among the floral tributes were those from Colton Parochial Church Council, the Mothers' Union, Village Produce Guild, Women's Institute and Steelways Ltd., of Wolverhampton.

MR. F. TAYLOR. — The fu... service, before cremation at M... eaton, took place in St. M... Church, Colton, of Mr. F... Taylor, of Little Hay Manor F... Mr. Taylor had been peo... church warden at Colton for a ... ber of years, but had resigned ... to ill health. The choral service ... conducted by the rector, the ... A. S. Towlson, who was assisted ... Mr. D. E. Waters, lay reader. ... G. E. Finnemore was org... Funeral arrangements were c... out by Mr. M. Williscroft. ... bearers were Mr. H. Plant, ... Luke Mellor (Blithbury), Mr. ... Warren, and Mr. Rupert Ev... Present were: Mrs. Taylor, widow ... Misses J. and G. Taylor, sister ... Mr. K. Taylor, nephew; Mr. a... Mrs. G. Mellor, Mr. and Mrs. ... Mellor, Mrs. L. Mellor (Blithbury ... Mr. G. Mellor (Barrow Hill); ... and Mrs. H. Mellor (Rocester); M... H. Plant, Mr. S. H. Plant, Mrs. ... H. Plant, Mr. and Mrs. ... Grindey, Mrs. B. Powell and M... J. Tweedie (representing Mrs. S... Mellor); Mr. and Mrs. W. Atkins, ... Mrs. L. Bradley, Mrs. C. Craddock, ... Mr. G. Hubble, Mrs. M. Andrews, ... Messrs. J. Slater, H. Wilkes, C. ... Clark (Steelways colleagues); Mr. G. ... Hunt, Mr. D. Pollard, Mr. J. ... Wilde, Mr. H. S. Woodman, Mr. ... G. Turner, Mr. G. Williams, Mrs. ... E. Taylor, Mrs. A. M. Baggott, Mr. ... and Mrs. E. Broughton, Mr. and ... Mrs. J. A. Best, Mrs. D. M. Foot, ... Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Felton, Mrs. G. ... A. Chilton, Mr. and Mrs. F. S. ... Knight (junior), Mr. and Mrs. A. ... J. Smith, Mr. J. H. Toy, Miss E. ... Rotchell, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, ... Mrs. W. Eaton, Mrs. H. Leeke, ... Mrs. F. W. Cooper, Mrs. N. We... hope, Miss C. N. L. Williscroft, ... Mrs. G. M. Upton, Mrs. W. ... Jones, Mr. and Mrs. F. Hardcastle, ... Mr. and Mrs. T. Preston, Mr. and ... Mrs. W. J. Parr, Mr. W. Finnemore, ... Mrs. E. M. Sargeant, Mrs. D. ... Atkin, Mrs. M. L. Waters, Mrs. ... H. A. Williscroft, Mrs. E. Griffin, ... Mrs. A. Cooper, Mr. J. James, Mrs. ... Towlson, Mr. E. Hewitt and Miss ... C. Burns. Floral tributes came from ... Julie; George and Greta; Jan... Luke and Margery; Joanna Matth... and Simon; Jennie, Gladys, Eth... Joy and Kenneth; Elsie, T... Olwyn, Dick and Jennifer; Fre... Luke, George and Margaret; Ru... Boycott and family; Molly ... Geoff Hubball and family; Ern... Mrs. Cooper, Marjorie and Do... thy; The Blore family; Elsie My... Hillary and Brian Taylor; Marga... Holland and Mr. and Mrs. G. Sh... Steelways Ltd., Wolverhampton; ... Colton Parochial Church Cou... and friends; Mr. and Mrs. D. ... Waters and Kevin; Mrs. Ivy Ja... and family; Gwen, John Williss ... staff (Williss, Rugeley Ltd.); B... and Sid Williss; Ken, Nellie ... David; Nancy, Norman, Barb... and Jill Hubball; Win and ... Atkins; Lila, Charlie, Janet ... Peter; Cissie and Annie; Ne... Walter and Ken; Ethel, Kenn... Joy and children; George ... Gladys; Bill, Annie and fam... Emmie, Barbara and Jock; Moth... Union; Produce Guild; Wom... Institute.

ADVERTISER. 5/10/63

STAFFORDSHIRE Association of Village Produce Guilds tried out an entirely new venture last week—an informal conference for chairmen, secretaries, treasurers and executive members.

The conference was held at Eccleshall.

The county chairman, Mr. J. D. Lewis, who is also chairman of the Colwich Guild, welcomed the guest speaker, Mr. P. J. Berrisford, public relations officer to Staffordshire County Council.

Mr. Berrisford gave advice and suggestions to various officers and committee members on the smooth running of business meetings. He was thanked by the county vice-chairman, Mr. J. W. Jones of Maer.

Later, a panel, comprising Mr. Berrisford, Mr. J. H. Cooke, (chairman of Maer Guild); Mr. D. M. Glod (county secretary), Mr. Lewis and Mr. J. E. Martin (Ashley) answered questions.

It was reported that the annual county harvest supper cannot be held at Eaton Lodge, as was originally planned, but will be held instead at the Universal Grinding Wheel Company works canteen, Stafford.

Mr. Lewis, who attended the annual conference of the National Federation of Village Produce Associations at Roehampton, brought back the Mabella Shield to Staffordshire.

This trophy is presented annually to the county with the largest increase in membership coupled with increased sales of the publication 'Village Life', and has been held for two years by Suffolk.

In the Mickleborough Cup competition, for an articles suitable for publication in 'Village Life', the third prize went to Alderman A. N. Hillier of Stafford. Mr. F. C. Horton of Lichfield was re-elected national chairman.

Square dancing classes were resumed at the Reading Room, Colton, on Monday, when 50 dancers were present, including a number from Rugeley.

Mr. Jack Brown is the caller and the committee responsible for the classes are Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Toy, Mr. L. Devall (treasurer), Mr. C. M. Boycott, Mr. and Mrs. T. Preston, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, Miss D. M. Jones and Mrs. L.

officers confer

6/10/63

An informal Conference for Chairmen, Secretaries and Treasurers and other executive members of the Staffordshire Association of Village Produce Guilds was held at the King's Arms, Eccleshall, last week.

The County Chairman, Mr. J. D. Lewis, who is also Chairman of the Colwich Guild, presided and welcomed Mr. P. J. Berrisford, Public Relations Officer to Staffordshire County Council who had helpful advice and suggestions to offer to various officers and committee members for the smooth running of meetings.

He was thanked by Mr. J. W. Jones, of Maer (County Vice-Chairman).

A panel consisting of Mr.

TIMES 5/10/63

An entirely new venture was undertaken by Staffordshire Association of Village Produce Guilds last week, when an informal conference was held at the Kings Arms, Eccleshall, for chairmen, secretaries, treasurers and executive members.

The county chairman, Mr. J. D.

Mrs. T. R. Bradbury who tied for the cup given [illegible]. With them is Mr. T. Mountford (committee chairman).

Colton Social

A social evening took place in Colton Reading Room on Friday evening, arranged by the Village Hall Entertainment Committee. Mr. J. A. Best showed films of 1947/1950 events, including the severe winter of 1947. It must have been somewhat difficult for the inhabitants of more recent years to picture Colton as it was then, and for the children to see their parents as 'teenagers. A vote of thanks to Mr. Best was expressed by Mr. Fred Hardcastle. Modern dancing followed.

Colton Quiz

Colton Youth Club challenged the Village Hall Entertainment Committee to a quiz, last week, when representatives of the Entertainment Committee were Mrs. P. L. Bannister, Mrs. P. M. Buckley, Mrs. F. E. Hardcastle, Messrs. Fred Hardcastle, Michael Pomlett and J. C. Price, and of the Youth Club, Misses Sylvia Goodall, Eileen and Valerie Marshall, Ruth Ravenscroft, Messrs. John Bannister and Robert Myatt. Mr. D. E. Waters (Club Leader) was question master. Questions were varied, local sport and music being included. The Youth Club won by one point.

At Saturday's meeting of [illegible] executive committee of Staffordshire Association of Village Produce Guilds, the "Mabella" Shield, [illegible] national trophy won by Staffordshire, was on view.

Mr. C. F. Horton, of Lichfield, was congratulated on his re-election as National Federation chairman, and members heard that next year's national annual conference would be held at Keele University. This is the first time the conference has been held outside London.

Members were also told that progress was being made in the formation of new guilds in the country, one having been formed recently at Edingale, near Lichfield.

Bulbs were on sale for the county bulb show, which it is hoped will take place on February 15, 1964.

Colton quiz won by youth club

Colton Youth Club challenged the Village Hall Entertainment Committee to a quiz last week, the Youth Club winning by one point. Mr. D. E. Waters, youth club leader, was question-master.

Representing the Entertainment Committee were Mrs. P. L. Bannister, Mrs. F. E. Hardcastle, Mr. F. Hardcastle, Mr. M. Pomlett and Mr. J. C. Price. The youth club's team comprised the Misses Sylvia Goodall, Eileen and Valerie Marshall and Ruth Ravenscroft and Messrs. John Bannister and Robert Myatt.

Colton

HARVEST FESTIVAL services [illegible] at St. Mary's Church, Colton, on Friday with the school children's gift service. The children took a varied selection of gifts to the [illegible] which was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson.

Headmaster, Mr. D. E. Waters, read the lesson and Mrs. D. R. Shaw was the organist.

The services were continued in the church, which had been decorated with flowers, fruit, vegetables and corn, on Sunday with choral eucharist and evensong services, both conducted by Mr. Towlson, assisted by Mr. Waters.

In the evening an address was given by the Rev. R. Radley, of Derby, a representative of the Missions to Seamen. Mrs. G. E. Finnemore was the organist.

[illegible] Colton church [illegible] offer their gifts to [illegible] the Rev. A. S. [illegible] at the school's harvest [illegible] service which was conducted at St. Mary's Church, Colton, on Friday.

FESTIVAL — Harvest Festival services started on Friday afternoon, with the school children's gift service. They brought along a varied selection of gifts and were well supported by parents and friends. The Rector, the Rev A. S. Towlson conducted the service. Mr D. E Waters, headmaster read the lesson and Mrs D R Shaw was the organist. Sunday services were choral eucharist at 11 a.m. and evensong, both conducted by the rector, assisted by Mr Waters. In the evening an address was given by the Rev Roy Radley of Derby, a representative of the Missions to Seamen Mrs G E Finnemore was the organist, and collections at all services were for the church expenses account, and a donation to the Missions to Seamen. [illegible]

COLTON HARVEST SUPPER

Over 80 people sat down to the well stocked tables at the annual Harvest Supper of Colton Village Produce Guild, held in the Reading [illegible].

The Chairman, Mr. T. Preston, welcomed the guests of honour, the County Vice-chairman, Mr. J. W. Jones and Mrs. Jones, of Mayfield, and Mr and Mrs. R. K. Murdoch, of Rodbaston Farm Institute. The Chairman thanked those whose hard work and gifts [illegible] the event possible.

AMONG the guests at Colton welcomed the guest and members Mothers' Union members [illegible]

FILMS RECALL COLTON EVENTS

Films of events in the years 1947 to 1950, including the severe winter of 1947, were shown by Mr. J. A. Best at a social evening arranged by the Colton Village Hall Entertainment Committee on Friday.

He was thanked by Mr. F. Hardcastle, and the evening concluded with a programme of modern dancing.

COLTON HARVEST SERVICES

Colton Harvest Festival services commenced on Friday afternoon, with the School Children's gift service, conducted by the Rector, Rev. A. S. Towlson. Mr. D. E. Waters (Headmaster) read the lesson, and Mrs. D. R. Shaw was the organist.

At Evensong on Sunday the most inspiring address was given by the Rev. Roy Radley, of Derby, a representative of the Missions to Seamen. Mrs. G. E. Finnemore was the organist, and collections at all services were for the Church Expenses account, and a donation to the Missions to Seamen. The church looked beautiful with its decorations.

ONE hundred and three people from the picture postcard parish of Colton, Rugeley, have signed a petition demanding improvements to a road accident black spot near Trent Valley railway station.

Advertiser 31/10/63

The petition, handed to the parish council last week, has been forwarded to the county council with a copy to Mr Julian Snow, M.P. for Lichfield and Tamworth.

The black spot is a corner at the end of what is known locally as the 'big blue wall' fronting the station.

This week, Mr Luke Mellor, chairman of the parish council told the Advertiser: "The parish council has been aware of the dangers of the corner for two and a half years and has been continually pressing for improvements."

With regard to the petition he said: "We feel considerable progress has been made because at first the county council paid no heed to our requests. Now, they realise the danger and have promised action as soon as they are well enough equipped financially to cope with it."

Pointing out that there had been several accidents at the corner, Mr Mellor said he felt the greatest danger confronted pedestrians because there was no footpath.

"The most pleasing things" he added "is the fact that the county council has at last seen the danger."

COLTON

Advertiser 31/10/63

PARISH COUNCIL.—At a meeting of the Colton parish council at which Mr Luke Mellor, chairman, presided, it was stated that nothing had as yet been done to repair the public seat in the Pinfold. An offer by Councillor Hardcastle to take the seat away and get it repaired was accepted. A long discussion took place regarding a letter in connection with a footpath which up to five

COLTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Mercury 1/11/63

All members of Colton Parish Council were present at a meeting held in the Reading Room, with the Chairman, Mr. Luke Mellor, presiding.

When the danger of the big blue wall at the Trent Valley was discussed, the Chairman presented a petition, handed to him by Mr. Warren, and signed by about 100 users of this stretch of road, which substantiates the Parish Council's claim that this is a dangerous corner, and pleading for some improvement.

Copies of the petition have been sent to the local M.P., the County Surveyor, and other interested bodies.

A plan of the proposed diversion by the brook bridge was passed round, and it was moved that interested members arrange a meeting on the site with the land-owner, Mr. J. C. Price.

As to the promised improvements to the 'bus shelter, the meeting was informed that this work will be put in hand as soon as possible.

As nothing had as yet been done to repair the public seat in the Pinfold, Cllr. Hardcastle offered to get it repaired, and his offer was accepted.

A long discussion took place regarding a letter in connection with Footpath No. 28, which for some five years led from opposite the post box at the top of the village and joined a network of paths on ground of Little Hay Manor Farm. Now with development having taken place on the field, where it commenced, the Parish Council's views were asked for regarding an Extinguishment Order and for some diversion. It was decided to ask for a meeting with the Area Surveyor on the site before this question could go any further.

The accounts of the Colton Parish Lands Trust were pre-

COLTON W.I. VISIT TO WOLVERHAMPTON

Times 26/10/63

Members of Colton Women's Institute with their children and friends enjoyed a visit to a mineral water works in Wolverhampton on Monday afternoon. Transport was provided by the firm and on their arrival the party were welcomed by the production manager.

After a visit to the canteen, where the production manager gave a talk on the history of mineral water, the party toured the plant. They had tea in the canteen, and the president, Mrs. I. Preston, thanked their guide.

TALK AT COLTON

Times 26/10/63

Members of Colton Mothers' Union met at Aspley House, the home of Mrs. N. Westhorpe, for their October meeting. The enrolling member, Mrs. J. L. Taylor, welcomed Mr. F. E. Masser, of Mavesyn Ridware, who conducted a service and accompanied the singing of hymns at the piano.

Mr. Masser gave a talk on his work as a prison visitor, an honorary service in which he has been engaged for five years. He was thanked by Mrs. L. Bettson.

A collection was taken for the work of the Moral Welfare Association, and it was agreed to hold a bring-and-buy stall at the November meeting and give a donation for this work.

THE annual harvest supper of Staffordshire Association of Village Produce Guilds was held at Stafford on Friday.

Advertiser

Guests of honour were Alderman J. F. Amery, chairman of Staffordshire County Council and Mrs Amery, chairman of Staffordshire Rural Community Council. They were welcomed by the county chairman Mr J. D. Lewis.

PARKSIDE W.I. GROUP

Advertiser 31/10/63

THE autumn meeting of the Parkside Group of W.I.s took place at Abbots Bromley Institute on Monday evening. The convenor, Mrs J. L. Taylor of Colton, introduced the chairman Mrs F. K. Vivian, president of Abbots Bromley W.I. who extended a welcome to the members of the group with a special mention of the two new institutes in the group, Hixon and Stowe by Chartley, and to Colwich who had returned to the fold.

In reply, Mrs B. Bowen, of Colwich said they were very pleased to be back with Parkside Group.

The chairman introduced Mrs L. Cowcill, the county representative, who gave details of county matters and was thanked by Mrs Vivian. It was agreed that the spring meeting take place at Hixon on March 17.

The chairman then introduced Mr Phil Drabble, who spoke on natural history. Mr Drabble was thanked by Mrs Vivian. A competition for a Hallowe'en cake was judged by Mr and Mrs R. Thomlinson, who awarded prizes to Mrs Bowen, Colwich and Mrs Greatbach, Stowe by Chartley. A necklace from the hedgerow competition judged by Mr Drabble was won by Mrs Vivian and Mrs I. Preston, Colton. The judges were thanked by Colwich seconded by Mrs M. Woodcock of Blithfield. The competition was won by two Hixon members and Mrs. E. M. Sargeant, Colton.

A puppet show put on by Mr A. Meeson and Mr B. Green was much enjoyed and they were thanked by Mrs N. Jones, Colton.

The hostess institute was thanked for a most enjoyable evening by Stowe by Chartley members.

COLTON

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Whist.—The annual whist drive to provide funds for the school pupils' Christmas party took place in the school, Mr P. W. Westhorpe being the M.C. Mrs L. Bettson presented prizes to: Mrs J. Bloor, Mrs Charles, Mrs Hodgkiss, Mr Foster, Mrs. Morrall, Mr L. Kendrick, Mrs Bailey, Mrs Sparrow, Mrs Fennick, Miss N. Lane, Mrs Moreton, Mr F. S. Knight, Miss M. Hampson; sealed numbers, Mr Guntripp, and Mrs. Mason; miniatures, Mrs M. Kent, Mr Kendrick, Mrs Dawson and Mr J. Cooper; travelling prizes, Mrs B. Harvey and Mr Knight; lowest scores Mrs E. M. Sargeant and Mr A. N. Felton; raffle for chicken dinner, Miss Mason; groceries, Mrs Sargeant (2), Mrs N. Westhorpe, Mrs B. M. Ravenscroft, Major J. O'Neill, Mr A. Devall, Miss Yvonne Chinnock, Mrs M. Saunders, Mr J. W. Hooley and Mrs E. D. Goodall. Mr D. E Waters headmaster, thanked all who had given prizes or helped in any way to make a success of the effort.

COLTON

Mercury 25/10/63

Presiding at the October meeting of Colton W.I., held in the Reading Room, the President Mrs. I. Preston, welcomed Mr. G. Fitch, of Rugeley, who interested members in his talk on the Service of Youth. He showed what a contrast there is in treatment of youth today as against the treatment they received in the last century. Mrs. I. R. Brown thanked him. Delegate to the Autumn Council meeting will be Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft. Arrangements were made for the visit to the Corona Works at Wolverhampton on the 21st and for the Parkside Group meeting at Abbots Bromley on the 28th. An invitation to the birthday of Slitting Mill W.I. was accepted for two members.

Tea hostesses were, Mrs. E. R. Bennett and Mrs. M. L. Waters. The mystery prize went to Mrs. H. A. Williscroft, and Miss D. M. Jones took charge of the stall.

Colton M.U. meeting

For their October meeting Colton Mothers' Union met at Apsley House by invitation of Mrs. N. Westhorpe, and there was a good attendance. The Enrolling member, Mrs. J. L. Taylor, welcomed Mr. F. E. Masser, of Mavesyn Ridware. The service was conducted by Mr. Masser, who also accompanied on the piano the singing of hymns.

He gave an absorbing talk on his work as a Prison Visitor, having been engaged in this 'unpaid job' for some five years. He was thanked by Mrs. L. Bettson. A collection was taken for the work of Moral Welfare, and it was agreed to stage a Bring and Buy Stall at the November meeting. Mrs. Taylor thanked Mrs. Westhorpe for her hospitality.

Mercury 25/10/63

youth work

TIMES 19/10/63

Mr. G. W. Fitch, of Rugeley, the Cannock and Rugeley area youth officer, greatly interested members of Colton Women's Institute when he spoke to them about the Service of Youth at their October meeting. He was welcomed by the president, Mrs. I. Preston.

Mr. Fitch pointed out what a contrast there was in the treatment of youth today compared with the treatment they received in the last century. There was a lot of criticism about today's youth, but he was firmly of the opinion that the "good" young people had never been better.

He went on to urge members to join the adult committees of youth clubs and, by their interest, encourage the young.

Mrs. I. Brown thanked Mr. Fitch.

Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft was chosen as delegate to the Autumn Council Meeting, and arrangements were made for the

COLTON

MOTHERS UNION.-Colton M.U. held their October meeting at Aps... ...ev House, the home of Mrs. ... Westhorpe, Mr. F. E. Masser ... Mavesyn Ridware, gave a talk ... his work as a prison visitor for t... past five years and conducted ... short service during the meeting.

vote of thanks to the speaker wa... given by Mrs. L. Bettson. A collec... tion for the work of moral welfa... was taken and it was agreed ... hold a bring and buy sale at ... November meeting of the gro... proceeds of which will also go t... the work of moral welfare.

Visit.— Members of Colto... Women's Institute with their childre... and a few friends, enjoyed a visit t... a mineral water firm in Wolverhamp... ton. Transport to and from the work... was provided by the firm. On their... arrival at the works the visitors were... welcomed by the Production Man... ager (Mr Harper) who conducted... them to the works canteen and gave... a talk on the history of mineral... water. After refreshments in the can... teen, the president Mrs I. Preston... thanked Mr Harper on behalf of the... members.

Advertiser 4/11/63

COLTON

SUPPER.—Over 50 attended ... annual harvest supper of Colt... Village Produce Guild held in ... Reading Room. The chairman, ... T. Preston extended a welcome ... the guests of honour, the cou... vice chairman Mr J. W. Jones a... Mrs Jones of Maer, and Mr ... Mrs R. K. Mowforth, of Rodbast... Farm Institute. The chairman a... thanked those who by their wo... and gifts had made the event po... sible. Toasts were drunk in wi... provided by Mr C. M. Boycott. T... men assisted with the washing ... A film show was given by Mr ... A. Best, showing scenes taken ... the Bellamour barbecue and tracti... engine rally, the barn dance ... Hamley Lodge, Blithfield a... Colton Mothers Union on Mr Be... boat at Wharf Cottage, and of ... church garden party. Miss D. ... Jones, secretary thanked Mr B... The raffle for an iced cake giv... and organised by Mrs I. V. Colli... was won by Mrs Mowforth. ... evening concluded with dancing ... records.

Advertiser

W.I. — Presiding at the Octob... meeting of Colton Women's In... tute held in the Reading Room, ... president Mrs I. Preston, welco... Mr G. Fitch, of Rugeley who g... a talk on the service of youth. ... showed what a contrast there ... treatment of youth today as aga... the treatment they received in ... last century. Mr. Fitch said th... was a lot of criticism regarding ... day's youth, but he was of the ... opinion that the 'good' young peo... had never been better. He w... on to urge members to join ... adult committee of youth clubs, ... so encourage the young by ... interest. Mrs I. R. Brown than... Mr Fitch. The delegate to ... Autumn council meeting will ... Mrs B. N. Ravenscroft, the re... tions were discussed, for the ... gates guidance when voting. ... rangements were made regar... the visit to a mineral water wo... at Wolverhampton on and for ... autumn meeting of the Parks... Group at Abbots Bromley. An ... vitation to the birthday of Slit...

Mercury 25/10/63

The annual whist drive to ... vide funds for Colton Sc... pupils Christmas party, t... place in the School, organised ... the Headmaster and Staff. ... P. W. Westhorpe being the ... Mrs. L. Bettson presented pr... to: Mrs. J. Bloor, Mrs. Char... Mrs. Hodgekiss, Mr. Foster, M... Morrall, Mr. L. Kendrick, M... Bailey, Mrs. Sparrow, Mrs. F... nick, Miss N. Lane, Mrs. Mo... ton, Mr. F. S. Knight, Miss ... Hampson; Sealed numbers, ... Guntripp and Mrs. Mason; M... iatures, Mrs. M. Kent, Mr. Ke... rick, Mrs. Dawson and Mr. ... Cooper; Travelling prizes, M... B. Harvey and Mr. Knight; Lo... est scores, Mrs. E. M. Sarge... and Mr. A. N. Felton.

Raffle for chicken dinner, M...

embers of the Staffordshire Association of Village Produce Guilds at their annual inner held at the Universal Grinding Wheel Co. Ltd. canteen on Friday (left to right): Mr. C. F. Hampton (National Chairman), Mr. J. D. Lewis (Staffordshire Chairman), Alderman J. F. Amery, Mrs. J. F. Amery, Mrs. J. W. Jones, Mrs. J. D. Lewis, Mrs. C. F. Hampton and Mr. J. W. Jones (Staffordshire Vice-Chairman).

Guild Harvest Supper

Among the guests at the annual harvest supper of the Staffs. Association of Village Produce Guilds were Mr. C. F. Horton, National Federation Chairman, and Mrs. Horton, of Charnwood Close, Lichfield, Mr. and Mrs. Foote, of Whittington, and Mr. and Mrs. T. Preston, Miss D. M. Jones, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, Mr. Leslie Devall and Mrs. J. L. Taylor, all from Colton.

The Chairman of Staffs. County Council, Ald. J. F. Amery, and Mrs. Amery, Chairman of the Rural Community Council, were the guests of honour.

Also present were the County Chairman of the Village Produce Guilds, Mr. J. D. Lewis, and the County Vice-chairman, Mr. J. W. Jones.

PRODUCE GUILDS' HARVEST SUPPER

ty harvest supper of the Staffordshire Association of e Guilds, held at Stafford last Friday.

Produce Guilds represented at harvest supper

Village Produce Guild members from Colton, Colwich and Abbots Bromley were among those attending the Staffordshire Association's harvest supper held in the works canteen of the Universal Grinding Wheel Company, Stafford, on Friday evening.

Guests of honour at the supper were the chairman of Staffordshire County Council, Alderman J. F. Amery, and Mrs. Amery, who is chairman of the Rural Community Council. The helpful work they had done for the association was outlined by the county chairman of village produce guilds, Mr. J. D. Lewis, of Colwich, in his welcoming speech.

The National Federation chairman, Mr. C. F. Horton, and Mrs. Horton were also present. After the meal entertainment was provided by Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hutchinson of the English Folk Dance and Song Society, and their "Lucky Seven" band from

MR. PHIL DRABBLE gave a talk on "Natural History" at the autumn meeting of the Parkside Group of Women's Institutes held at Abbots Bromley on Monday evening. The convener was Mrs. J. L. Taylor, of Colton, and the President of Abbots Bromley W.I., Mrs. C. Vivian, welcomed members of the group from Abbots Bromley, Blithfield, Colton, Hixon, Stowe-by-Chartley, and Colwich.

Mr. Drabble told members that his first pets were newts, which he kept in a tank on the breakfast table. Later on he had a badger, and when he moves to his new home—Goats Lodge, Bagots Park—it is his wish to keep badgers in an enclosure in front of his bedroom window, with a light controlled from his bed, so that on sleepless nights he can lie in comfort and watch his "friends." He also hopes to have a heronry in the remaining trees near his new home.

He mentioned some of the sprays used on land for agricultural and horticultural purposes, and declared that these were more dangerous than the H-bomb to animals and people.

Another speaker was the county representative, Mrs. L. Cowcill who gave details of county matters and in the social time a puppet show was given by Mr. A. Meeson and Mr. B. Green. They were thanked by Mrs. N. Jones of Colton.

The competition for a Hallowe'en cake was judged by Mr. and Mrs R. Thomlinson who awarded prizes to Mrs. Bowen (Colwich) and Mrs Greatbach (Stowe-by-Chartley). The competition for a hedgerow necklace, judged by Mr. Drabble, was won by Mrs. Vivian and Mrs. I Preston (Colton).

The raffle was won by two Hixon members and Mrs. E. M. Sargeant

Colton Dance

Colton Youth Club organised a successful 'Hallowe'en' dance in the Reading Room at the weekend. Music was supplied by the

Colton Mothers' Union met in the Reading Room for their November meeting, and in the absence, through illness, of the enrolling member, the short service was led by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft. Mrs. E. H. Marsh, wife of the Vicar of Great Wyrley, was the guest speaker. She was introduced by Mrs. P. B. Best.

Mrs. Marsh gave an inspiring talk on aspects of the Christrian creeds and was thanked by Mrs. I. Preston. Mrs. Best announced that Colton members were invited to join Armitage M.U. at their meeting on December 4, when the diocesan president would be the speaker. Colton were also invited to a party being given by Blithfield M.U. on December 12. A bring-and-buy stall raised £2 14s 2d for moral welfare work.

* * *

Parkside Group of W.I.'s

The Autumn meeting of the Parkside Group of W.I.'s took place at Abbots Bromley Institute where the Convener, Mrs. J. L. Taylor, of Colton, introduced the Chairman, Mrs. F. K. Vivian, of Abbots Bromley Institute.

Mrs. L. Cowcill, the County Representative, gave details of County matters, for which she was thanked by Mrs. Vivian. It was agreed the Spring meeting take place at Hixon on March 17.

The Chairman introduced Mr. Phil Drabble, who kept the gathering really interested in his talk on natural history.

The competition for a Hallowe'en cake was judged by Mr. and Mrs. R. Thomlinson, who awarded prizes to Mrs. Bowen (Colwich). and Mrs. Greatbach (Stowe-Chartley). Necklace from hedgerow competition, judged by Mr

RUMMAGE.—The rummage sale organised by Colton youth club for the purpose of giving bags of coal to elderly people and widows at Christmas was not as successful as the leader Mr D. E. Waters hoped for. The sum raised was about £15. Helpers at the sale were Mrs Waters, Mrs P. L. Bannister, Mrs I. V. Collins, Mrs R. O. Devall, Mrs F. Hardcastle, Mrs L. A. Curtis, Mrs P. M. Buckley, Misses Ruth Ravenscroft, Dianne Grimley, Christine Peake, Pamela Jones and Kathleen Norman. Serving refreshments were Mrs M. E. Hibbs, Mrs E. Griffin and Mrs A. L. Cooper. The raffle was won by Mrs D. Goodall, bottle of sherry and Mrs J. E. Norman towels. Mr Waters was door steward.

REMEMBRANCE.—Plans for Remembrance Sunday had to be changed when the weather turned wet. Instead of the service held at the War Memorial, it took place in church there being a good attendance. The rector, Rev. A. S. Towlson at the altar steps received the Mothers Union banner from Mrs L. Bettson and the parish councillors poppy wreath from Mr G. F. Upton This was later laid on the memorial. The service concluded with the parish communion service.

PRODUCE GUILD.—The November meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild took place in the Reading Room, Mr T. Preston, chairman presiding. Minutes of previous meetings were read and confirmed, and one or two matters arising discussed. A letter was read from Abbots Bromley guild saying that as Colton guild seemed to have a full programme at present, it would be best to leave the proposed return quiz over till the spring. Members agreed. The chairman appealed for questions, for the December meeting when a panel of experts will form a brains trust. They will be Mr R. K. Nowforth, horticulture of Rodbaston Farm Institute, Mr J. C. Matthews, agriculture, Rodbaston, Miss Cherry, domestic science, Rodbaston and a Doctor of Entomology. Nominations received for 1964 show committee were Mr J. H. Toy, Mr T. Preston, Mr Leslie Devall, Mr W. C. Preston, Mr P. Tabenor, Mr D. W. Garwood, Mr J. Meddings, one or two of these were not present and will have to be asked if available, Mrs B. M. Ravenscroft and Mrs L. Jackson. Ideas were suggested for the new schedules. The highlight of the evening was a film show by Mr Peter A. Dean, deputy secretary to the rural Community Council of pictures taken by himself during his two months stay in Rhodesia. Thanks to Mr Dean were given by Miss Ruth Ravenscroft. The competition for an arrangement from the hedgerow, attracted a display. They were judged by Mr Dean. He awarded the prizes to Mrs M. S. Toy, Mrs I Preston and Mr Jack Brown. Tea hostesses were Mrs C. M. Amyes and Mrs [illegible] assisted by [illegible]

COLTON

Plans for Remembrance Sunday at Colton had to be changed when the weather was unkind. Instead of the service being held at the War Memorial, it took place in church, there being a good attendance. The Rector, Rev. A. S. Towlson, received the Mothers' Union banner from Mrs. L. Bettson, and the parish councillors' poppy wreath from Mr. G. F. Upton. This was later laid on the War Memorial. The service concluded with the parish Communion service.

Mercury 15/11/63

Colton Rummage Sale

The rummage sale organised by Colton Youth Club for the purpose of giving bags of coal to elderly people and widows at Christmas was not as successful as the Leader, Mr. D. E. Waters hoped for. About £15 was raised.

Helpers at the sale were, Mrs. Waters, Mrs. P. L. Bannister, Mrs. I. V. Collins, Mrs. R. O. Devall, Mrs. F. Hardcastle, Mrs. L. A. Curtis, Mrs. P. M. Buckley, Misses Ruth Ravenscroft, Dianne Grimley, Christine Peake, Pamela Jones and Kathleen Norman. Serving refreshments were Mrs. M. E. Hibbs, Mrs. E. Griffin and Mrs. A. L. Cooper. The raffle was won by Mrs. D. Goodall, bottle of sherry and Mrs. J. E. Norman towels. Mr. Waters was door steward.

HIGHLIGHT of the November meeting of the Colton Village Produce Guild —Mr. T. Preston (Chairman) presiding—was a film show with commentary, by Mr. Peter A. Dean (Deputy Secretary to the Rural Community Council) of pictures taken by himself during his two months' stay in Rhodesia. Thanks to Mr. Dean were expressed by Miss Ruth Ravenscroft. The competition for an arrangement from the hedgerow, attracted good entries. These were judged by Mr. Dean, who awarded the prizes to Mrs. M. S. Toy, Mrs. I. Preston and Mr. Jack Brown. Tea hostesses were Mrs. C. M. Amyes and Mrs. Joan Garwood, assisted by Mrs. Jackson. Miss Ruth Ravenscroft, Miss D. M. Jones (Hon. Secretary) and Mr. J. Brown. Sandwell

Colton M.U.

Colton Mothers' Union met in the Reading Room for their November meeting when in the absence through illness of the Enrolling member, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft led members in a short service. The guest speaker, Mrs. Marsh, wife of the Vicar of Great Wyrley, who was welcomed by Mrs. P. B. Best, gave an inspiring talk on some aspects of the Christian Creeds. She was thanked by Mrs. I. Preston.

A bring and buy stall raised £2/14/2. A donation will be given to Moral Welfare Work.

COLTON

A RUMMAGE SALE organised by the Colton Youth Club to raise funds for the provision of bags of coal for elderly people and widows at Christmas realised about £15. Helpers were: Mrs. Waters, Mrs. P. L. Bannister, Mrs. I. V. Collins, Mrs. R. O. Devall, Mrs. F. Hardcastle, Mrs. L. A. Curtis, Mrs. P. M. Buckley, Miss Ruth Ravenscroft, Miss Dianne Grimley, Miss Christine Peake, Miss Pamela Jones, Miss Kathleen Norman. Refreshments were served by Mrs. M. E. Hibbs, Mrs. E. Griffin and Mrs. A. L. Cooper. A competition was won by Mrs. D. Goodall (bottle of sherry) and Mrs. J. E. Norman (towels). Mr. D. E. Waters, the Club Leader, was the door attendant. Sandwell

COLTON

MOTHERS' UNION. — Colton Mothers' Union met in the Reading Room for their November meeting. In the absence, through illness, of the enrolling member, Mrs B. M. Ravenscroft, led members in a short service. The guest speaker Mrs Marsh, wife of the Vicar of Great Wyrley, was welcomed by Mrs P. B. Best, and gave a talk on some aspects of Christian creeds. Thanks were expressed to Mrs Marsh by Mrs I. Preston. Mrs Best announced that Colton members were invited to join Armitage members at their meeting on December 4, when the speaker will be the diocesan president. Bitterfield have also invited Colton members to their party on December 12. A bring and buy stall raised £2 14s. 2d. so that a donation can be given to Moral Welfare work.

Colton W.I. held their November meeting in the Reading Room, Mrs. I. Preston, President, presiding. A letter was read from the Village Produce Guild inviting members to join their December "Brains Trust". Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft who reported on the autumn Council meeting was thanked by Mrs. M. S. Toy. A talk and demonstration on "Tupperware" was given by Mrs. J. Beck assisted by Mrs. Savage. The competition for "My fav-

COLTON DANGER SPOT PETITION

TIMES 2/11/63

A PETITION signed by 103 residents and regular users of Colton Road, near Trent Valley station, who are concerned about the dangerous bend at this point, is gaining the full support which Mr. Bert Warren, who initiated the move, had hoped for.

Mr. Julian Snow, Labour M.P. for Lichfield and Tamworth, has promised to ask a question on the matter when the House of Commons resumes, and the county surveyor, Mr. F. Jepson, has said that improvements to the bend will be considered at the next meeting of the County Roads and Bridges Committee for inclusion in the programme for the 1964-65 financial year.

But in the meantime, Mr. Warren is suggesting to the county surveyor two measures which he feels should be taken to reduce the danger until the council can start an improvement scheme. He is asking for two signs, one to be placed at either side of the bend, warning motorists to reduce speed, and for the cutting back of 30 yards of bank to afford pedestrians extra safety.

Copies of the petition have also been sent to County Councillor J. E. Riley, chairman of Lichfield Rural Council, and the chairman of Colton parish council.

The chairman of Colton parish Council, Councillor L. Mellor, presented hs copy of the petition at last week's meeting of the council. Mr. Warren has since heard that the parish council fully supports the petition, which substantiates councils claim that the corner the "big blue wall" at Trent is dangerous.

They have approved the action which Mr. Warren has taken in pleading for some improvement and wish him every success. The parish council has also offered any help they can give, and Mr. Warren has told the "Times" that he intends asking them to write to all the persons who had been sent a copy of the petition, in the hope that prompt action will be taken.

On Thursday Mr. Warren received a letter from the county surveyor promising to bear in mind his latest suggestions and making a report for the next meeting of the Roads and Bridges Committee. Mr. Warren's suggestion for modifying the danger, until a permanent solution can be found, were the removal of a high bank from a 30-yards stretch so that a narrow footpath could be provided there, and the erection of notices warning drivers to

Until five years ago a public footpath led from the postbox at the top of Colton village to Colton a network of paths at Little Manor Farm, but there has been much development on the land where it began. Now the parish council are being asked for their views on an Extinguishment Order and for some diversion of the path.

At their meeting last week the parish councillors discussed at length the possible extinguishment and diversion of "footpath 28" and finally decided to ask for a meeting with the county surveyor before discussing the matter further.

A plan of the proposed diversion by the brook bridge was inspected and interested members will be arranging a meeting on the spot with the landowner, Mr. J. Price. Further discussion was deferred until next month's meeting.

After it had been reported that the public seat in the Pinfold had not been repaired, Councillor Hardcastle offered to take it away and get it repaired. His offer was accepted.

Mercury 15/11/63

COLTON GUILD

The November meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild took place in the Reading Room, Mr. T. Preston, Chairman, presiding.

As Colton Guild have a full programme at present, it was decided to leave the proposed return quiz with Abbots Bromley till the Spring.

The Chairman appealed for questions for the December meeting, when a panel of experts will form a Brains Trust. They will be Mr. R. K. Mowforth (horticulture) of Rodbaston Farm Institute, Mr. J. C. Matthews (agriculture) Rodbaston, Miss Cherry (domestic science) Rodbaston, and a Doctor of Entomology.

Nominations received for 1964 show committee were: Mr. J. H. Toy, Mr. T. Preston, Mr. Leslie Devall, Mr. W. C. Preston, Mr. P. Tabernor, Mr. D. W. Garwood, Mr. J. Meddings, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft and Mrs. L. Jackson.

The highlight of the evening was a film show by Mr. Peter A. Dean, Deputy Secretary to the Rural Community Council, of pictures taken by himself during his two months stay in Rhodesia.

Thanks to Mr. Dean were expressed by Miss Ruth Ravenscroft.

The competition for an arrangement from the hedgrow, of a was judged by Mr. Dean who in th awarded prizes to Mrs. M. S. Toy, ing Mrs. I. Preston and Mr. Jack Brown. Mana

Tea hostesses were Mrs. C. M. Amyes and Mrs. Joan Garwood, assisted by Mrs. Jackson, Miss Ruth Ravenscroft, Miss D. M. Jones (hon. Secretary) and Mr. J. Brown.

The Colton branch of the Conservative Association has made arrangements to hold a Christmas fare whist drive on Friday, December 6. The main purpose of the whist drive is to enable the prospective Parliamentary candidate, Mr. Kenneth Dunkley, and Mrs. Dunkley to attend a social function in Colton. TIMES

They will be staying at Bellamour Lodge, the home of the branch chairman, Mr. J. C. Price, and will be spending the Saturday visiting as many homes as possible

COLTON

SCHOOL EFFORT. Mello Organised by the Headma and staff. the annual drive to provide funds fo Christmas party for scholars of Colton School held in the school. Mr. P. Westhorpe was the M.C. 21 tables were in play. L. Bettson presented prizes to: Mrs. J. Bloor, Charles, Mrs. Hodgekiss, Foster, Mrs. Morrall, Mrs Kendrick, Mrs. Bailey, Sparrow, Mrs. Fennick, N. Lane, Mrs. Moreton, F. S. Knight (2), Miss Hampson, Mr. Guntripp, Mason, Mrs. M. Kent, Kendrick, Mrs. Dawson, J. Cooper, Mrs. B. Ha Mr. Knight, Mrs. E. Sargeant and Mr. A. Felton. Raffles were wo Chicken dinner. Miss M parcels of groceries,

Lo... of the vice-ha... I. W. Bigham, and he... Mrs. Bigham Arrangements have been made to hold a Christmas Fare whist drive The idea be... for two purposes—first to enable the prospective candidate, Mr Kenneth Dunkley, and his wife to attend a social function in the parish. They will be staying at Bellamour Lodge with the branch chairman Mr. J. C. Price, and Mrs. Price, and will be spending the Saturday visiting as many homes as possible and the three public houses in the parish. Second idea of the whist drive — it was unanimously agreed that the proceeds will be devoted entirely to benefit in some way the elderly people in the parish. The treasurer, Mr. Fred Hardcastle, in his report said that he had forwarded a further £10 to the divisional office. This means that Colton branch have exceeded their quota by £5. The secretary read a copy of a letter sent expressing the pleasure with which the branch had received the news of the Party's choice of Prime Minister and expressing the hope that every effort would be made to make his record more widely known.

W.I.—Colton Women's Institute held its November meeting in the Reading Room with Mrs Preston presiding. A letter from the Village Produce Guild was read inviting members to join the Guild at its December meeting when a 'Brains Trust' is to be held. Mrs B. M. Ravenscroft gave a report of the autumn council meeting held at Stafford and was thanked by Mrs M. S. Toy. A demonstration of kitchenware was given by Mrs J. Beck assisted by Mrs Savage. A competition for a favourite ornament was won by Mrs C. Barham. Mrs J. Meddings took charge of the trading stall. Members were urged to support the Christmas stall at the December meeting. A talk on icing cakes is to be given at this meeting and friends will be invited. Tea hostesses were Mrs P. M. Buckley Mrs Ravenscroft and Miss E. Rotchell.

MR G. E. D. ATKIN—The funeral took place at St. Mary's Church, Colton of Mr George Ernest Dean Atkin aged 77 years of Brookfield Farm, Admaston Road, Colton. A keen member of the National Farmers Union, the Staffordshire Agricultural Society and of the Colton Village Produce Guild, he retired from the Lount Farm, Colton in 1953 which he had farmed for many years and this now being farmed by his son, before which he farmed at Whitgreave, Stafford. The service was conducted by the Rev N. R. Torrington, vicar of Rugeley and Mrs G. E. Finnemore was the organist. Bearers were nephews, John, Henry, Raymond and David Hubbart and the undertaker was Mr Maurice Williscroft. Mourners were Mrs Atkin, widow; Mr and Mrs G. E. D. Atkin, son and daughter in law; Mr and Mrs S. J. D. Atkin, son and daughter in law; Misses Norma and Pauline Atkin, granddaughters; Mr and Mrs F. Hubbart, nephew; Misses Sylvia and Margaret Hubbart, nieces; Mr and Mrs Jack Atkin, brother; Mr and Mrs Ernest Atkin, brother; also rep. Mr and Mrs G. Atkin, of Cheswardine, brother; Mr William Atkin, cousin, Mr Philip Atkin, nephew; Mrs Bertha Jones, sister in law; Mr Neville Blakeman rep. Mrs Blakeman, niece; Mrs John Hubbart, Brenda and Christine, nieces. Also attending Mr and Mrs W. C. Sargeant Mr and Mrs A. N. Felton, Mr and Mrs L. G. Webb, Mrs J. A. Best, Mr and Mrs J. H. Toy, Mr and Mrs T. Preston, Mr A. J. Smith Mr F. S. Knight, junior, Mr Donald Evans, Mr W. J. Parr, Mr H. D. Pollard, Miss D. M. Jones, Miss E. Rotchell, Mr D. E. Waters rep.

Colton C. of E. School, Mrs B. M. Ravenscroft, Mrs M. E. Hibbs, Mr G. Smethcock rep. Churchfields C. of E. School Rugeley, Mr A. V. Branson rep. S. Cocks Cattle Foods, Mr and Mrs A. J. D. Collins. Floral tributes included Esther, George, Dorothy, Dorrett and Susan, Sidney Mabel, Norman, Pauline Valerie and Robert, Frank, Rene, Raymond, David, Sylvia and Margaret, Jack

The funeral took place at St. Mary's Church, Colton, of Mr. George Ernest Dean Atkin, aged 77, of Brookfield Farm, Admaston Road, Colton. A keen member of the N.F.U., the Staffordshire Agricultural Society, and Colton Village Produce Guild, he retired from the Lount Farm, Colton, in 1953, which he had farmed for many years (and which is now being farmed by his son), before which he farmed at Whitgreave, Stafford.

The service was conducted by the Rev. N. R. Torrington, Vicar of Rugeley, and Mrs. G. E. Finnemore was the organist. Bearers were nephews, John Henry, Raymond and David Hubbart.

Mourners were:— Mrs. Atkin (widow); Mr. and Mrs. G. E. D. Atkin, Mr. and Mrs. S. J. D. Atkin (sons and daughters-in-law); Misses Norma and Pauline Atkin (grand-daughters); Mr. and Mrs. F. Hubbart (nephew); Misses Sylvia and Margaret Hubbart (nieces); Mr. and Mrs. Jack Atkin (brother); Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Atkin (brother, also representing Mr. and Mrs. G. Atkin, of Cheswardine); Mr. William Atkin (cousin); Mr. Philip Atkin (nephew); Mrs. Bertha Jones (sister-in-law); Mr. Neville Blakeman representing Mrs. Blakeman (niece); Mrs. John Hubbart; Brenda and Christine (nieces).

Mercury 22/11/63

Colton Conservative matters

Colton Branch of the Conservative Association have held two meetings recently, at Colton Lodge, the home of their Vice-chairman, Mr. I. W. Bigham, and their hon. secretary, Mrs. Bigham.

Arrangements have been made to hold a "Christmas Fare" whist drive on December 6, at which the prospective candidate, Mr. Ken Dunkley and his wife hope to be present.

The branch committee hope if anyone has a special problem they would like to discuss with Mr. Dunkley, that they will get in touch with either the Chairman, Mr. Price, or the Secretary, Mrs. Bigham.

Proceeds from the whist drive will be devoted to benefit the elderly people in the parish.

The hon. treasurer, Mr. Fred Hardcastle, had forwarded a further £10 to the Divisional office, which means Colton branch have exceeded their quota by £5.

Colton Parish Council

At a meeting of Colton Parish Council in the Reading Room, tribute was paid to the late Cllr. Mrs. J. L. Taylor.

Regarding the proposed improvement at the "Big blue wall," at Trent Valley, the Council are satisfied something will be done as soon as the County Council have the funds.

It was stated that at the meeting with Mr. J. C. Price regarding improvement at the brook bridge, those council members who were present entirely agreed with his suggestions, and it was a very satisfactory meeting.

The Chairman, Cllr. Luke Mellor expressed concern at the way the drain at the bottom of his drive breaks so often. It was most unhealthy. Cllr. Fred Hardcastle said the sewerage system was not likely to be started for some time.

Members agreed not to fill the vacancy created by the death of Mrs. Taylor, in view of next May's elections.

Mercury 27/12/63

MOTHERS' UNION. — Colton Mothers' Union held their December meeting in the North Room at the

LATE MR. G. E. D. ATKIN.

—The funeral took place at St. Mary's Church, Colton, of Mr. George Ernest Dean Atkin, aged 77, of Brookfield Farm, Admaston-road, Colton. Mr. Atkin was a keen member of the National Farmers' Union, the Staffordshire Agricultural Society and the Colton Village Produce Guild. Until his retirement in 1953, he was at Lount Farm, Colton, which is now farmed by his son. Before moving to Colton he farmed at Whitgreave, Stafford. The service was conducted by the Rev. N. R. Torrington. (Vicar of Rugeley) with Mr. G. E. Finnemore at the organ. Mourners were Mrs. Atkin (widow), Mr. and Mrs. G. E. D. Atkin, Mr. and Mrs. S. J. D. Atkin (sons and daughters - in - law), Miss Norma Atkin and Miss Pauline Atkin (granddaughters) Mr. and Mrs. F. Hubbart, Miss Sylvia Hubbart, Miss Margaret Hubbart, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Atkin, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Atkin (also representing Mr. and Mrs. G. Atkin, of Cheswardine), Mr. William Atkin, Mr. Philip Atkin, Mrs Bertha Jones, Mr. Neville Blakeman (also representing Mrs. Blakeman), Mrs. John Hubbart, Brenda and Christine, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Sargeant, Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Felton, Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Webb, Mrs. J. A. Best, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Toy, Mr. and Mrs. T. Preston, Mr. A. J. Smith, Mr. F. S. Knight junior, Mr. Donald Evans, Mr. W. J. Parr, Mr H. D. Pollard, Miss D. M. Jones, Miss E. Rotchell, Mr. D. E. Waters (all representing

Funeral of well-known farmer

23/11/64

The funeral took place at St. Mary's Church, Colton, of Mr. George Ernest Dean Atkin, of Brookfield Farm, Admaston Road, Colton.

A keen member of the Farmers Union, Stafford Agriculture Society and Colton Village Produce Guild, Mr. Atkin who was 77, retired from Lount Farm, Colton in 1953, after farming there for many years. He also farmed at Whitgreave Stafford.

The funeral service was conducted by the vicar of Rugeley, the Rev. N. R. Torrington, with Mrs. G. E. Finnemore at the organ. The bearers were Mr. Atkin's nephews, Messrs. John, Henry, Raymond and David Hubbart.

Mourners were Mrs. Atkin (widow); Mr. and Mrs. G. E. D. Atkin, Mr. and Mrs. S. J. D. Atkin (sons and daughters-in-law); Mr. and Mrs. Jack Atkin, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Atkin, also representing Mr. and Mrs. G. Atkin of Cheswardine (brothers and sisters-in-law); Mrs. Bertha Jones (sister-in-law); Misses Norma and Pauline Atkin granddaughters), Mr. and Mrs. F. Hubbart, Mr. Philip Atkin, Misses Sylvia and Margaret Hubbart, Mr. Neville Blakeman (representing Mrs. Blakeman) Mrs. John Hubbart, Misses Christine and Brenda Hubbart (nephews and nieces); Mr. William Atkin (cousin).

Also attending were Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Sargeant, Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Felton, Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Webb, Mrs. J. A. Best, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Toy, Mr. and Mrs. T. Preston, Mr. A. J. Smith, Mr. F. S. Knight junior, Mr. Donald Evans, Mr. W. J Parr, Mr H D. Pollard, Miss D. M Jones, Miss E. Rotchell, Mr. D. E. Waters (all representing

A D COLTON 2/12

WHIST. — A whist drive place in the Reading Room, C... organised by the Colton branch... the Conservative Association... entire proceeds were handed t... D. E. Waters by the prospective... liamentary candidate Mr Ken... Dunkley. This, which amounted... £11 13s. 6d., will go towards... youth club fund to buy coal for... elderly people of the parish. Mr... Dunkley who was accompanied by... his wife was introduced by the... branch chairman Mr J. C. Price... was their second visit to Colton. Mr... P. W. Westhorpe was the M.C. and... prizes were presented by Mrs Dunkley to Mrs W. M. Jones, Mrs Mason, Mrs K. M. Smithers, Mrs C. E. Meddings, Mrs J. E. Wright, Mr T. Potts, Miss D. Rowe, Mr H. C. G. Smithers, Mrs J. Powell, Miss Mason, Miss Ruth Ravenscroft, Mrs E. Preston, miniatures Mrs B. M. Ravenscroft and Mrs Insley. Lowest scores Mrs N. B. A. Martin and Mr S. Hall. Raffle for turkey was won by Mr Potts and brace of pheasants by Tony Wright. Also looking in on the gathering were Mr Peter Brown, divisional chairman, Mr Norman Slipper, divisional agent, Mr J. E. Riley, county councillor and Mr W. J. Jones, branch president. Prizes and refreshments had been given by committee members. Helping with refreshments were Mrs W. J. Jones, Mr J. W. Bigham and the Misses E. and K. Norman as deputies for Mrs Bigham and Mrs A. P. Ball. Arrangements were made for Mr and Mrs Dunkley to visit homes in the parish. They were to be escorted by Mr L. Kendrick, Mr Bigham and Mr Fred Hardcastle, working on a sort of rota system.

PRODUCE GUILD.-Presiding at the December meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild held in the Reading Room, the chairman, Mr. T. Preston, welcomed members of Colwich Guild and Colton members and friends. His first duty following this was to mention the loss to the county association in the recent death of the president Miss Harrison and the severe loss to Colton Guild in the deaths of committee member Mr. G. E. D. Atkin, and of Mrs J. L. Taylor. Mr. Preston asked all to stand in a silent tribute. Minutes of the November meeting were read and confirmed. An invitation was received from Abbots Bromley guild to their social evening, and it was stated that a few arrangements were in hand for Colton guild's social evening on January 2, 1964. The chairman extended a welcome to the 'Brains Trust' team from Rodbaston Farm Institute, Mr. J C Matthews, agriculture; Mr. R. K. Mowforth, horticulture; and Mr. Fain, science master. The fourth member of the team Miss Cherry, domestic science, being unable to attend, the men found themselves with cooking questions to solve. The questionmaster was Mr. J H Toy, and a wide variety of question were asked. Mr. Toy proposed a vote of thanks to the team, and the chairman thanked Mr Toy for his services as questionmaster. Competition were for : A hanging Christmas decoration, won by Mrs. T. Preston; mince pies won by Mrs. Preston, and brussels sprouts, won by Mr Toy. The raffle for home made wine was won by Mrs. W. Preston, tin of biscuits, Mrs. L Jackson and Chrismas pudding, Mr. Jack Brown. Tea hostesses were Mrs. Preston and Mrs. Toy

OPENING-The executive meeting of Staffordshire Association of Village Produce Guilds in Stafford on Saturday. The county chairman, Mr J D Lewis paid tribute to the late Miss J E L Harrison of Maer Hall, who for many years had been the president of the Staffordshire Association. One of her last gestures was to present a trophy for annual competition by the guilds which will now be known as the Harrison trophy. Mr Lewis asked members to stand with him in silent tribute. It was agreed that a message from the meeting be sent to the National Federation chairman, Mr. C. F. Horton, who was in hospital following a car accident. Arrangements

...over a ...at the ...eeting held in the ...Room the President ...s. I. Preston) paid ...ute to the memory of a ...e-President, the late Mrs. ...ia L. Taylor, reminding ...embers that she was ...e of the founder ...embers of the Colton W.I. ...All stood in silent tribute. ...Miss Cadman, of Rodbaston ...Farm Institute, gave a most ...interesting demonstration of ...cake icing and also judged ...the competition for four ...mince pies, awarding the ...prize to Mrs. Preston. The ...vote of thanks to Miss Cad-...man was proposed by Mrs. ...C. M. Sanders. The well-...stocked Christmas stall was ...supervised by Mrs. N. Jones ...and Miss Ellen Rotchell. Tea ...hostesses were Mrs. D. M. ...Atkin, Mrs. E. M. Sargeant ...and Mrs. M. S. Toy. A raffle ...for an iced cake, given by ...Mrs. Jones, was won by Mrs. ...M. C. Harvey. The social ...part was an enjoyable game ...of crazy whist, with Mrs. Toy ...as M.C., the prizewinners ...being Mrs. June Meddings, ...Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, Mrs. ...R. O. Devall, Mrs. L. Jackson, ...Mrs. E. E. Bennett, Mrs. ...Sanders, Miss S. M. Hibbs ...

...Christmas services began at ...olton St. Mary's Church with the ...carol service of the pupils of the ...school, which was well attended ...by parents and friends, including ...County Cllr. J. E. Riley. Lesson ...readers were Wendy Evans, ...Michele Pomlett, Philip Deacon, ...Glyn Sargeant, Steven Hardcastle, ...Ian Myatt, Joy Upton and Kath-...leen Corden. Mr. D. E. Waters ...and the Rector (Rev. A. S. Towl-...son). Mrs. D. R. Shaw was the ...organist. Collections were for the ...Hoar Cross Children's Homes.

COLTON

GIVEN A PARTY. — Organised by the Colton Village Hall Entertainment Committee, a party for all children in the parish between the ages of three and 15 was held in the hall on Saturday. Each guest received a gift from Father Christmas.

CAROL SERVICE.—There ...a good attendance at the ...ual carol service con-...ed at St. Mary's Church, ...on, on Sunday evening ...he Rector (the Rev. A. S. ...wlson). Mrs. G. E. Finne-...re was at the organ, and ...llections were taken by Messrs. Bernard Bettson and A. N. Felton. Lessons were read by representatives of various village organisations —Mr. C. M. Boycott (Village Produce Guild), Mrs. E. A. Cooper (Mothers' Union), Mr. Fred Hardcastle (Parish Council), Miss Ruth Ravens-croft (Youth Club), Mr. D. J. Bradbury (Village Hall Entertainment Committee), Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft (Women's Institute) and the Rector. 31/12/64

TIME 3 - 18/1/64

A general knowledge quiz was much enjoyed feature of the January meeting of Colton Women's Institute. The question master was Mr. D. E. Waters, with Mrs. Waters as score keeper.

The contest was between the Women's Institute and the Village Produce Guild. The Women's Institute team consisted of Mesdames P. M. Buckley, I. Preston, M. S. Toy, B. Barham, N. Jones and I. R. Brown and the Produce Guild team was Messrs.

GREAT LOSS TO COLTON 6/12/63

COLTON has suffered a great loss with the death of Mrs. Julia Lizzie Taylor, aged 66, of Littlehay Manor Farm, Colton, who died in Staffordshire General Infirmary on November 27, after an illness of almost a fortnight.

Mrs. Taylor (nee Plant) was the widow of Mr. Frank Taylor, who died two months ago, and whom she married in 1947, when she was the widow of Mr. George Mellor, who died in 1943.

They came to the Manor from the Parish of Kingstone in 1920, and there are two married sons, Messrs. George and Luke Mellor, who farm the Manor Farm; and one daughter, Mrs. Monica Fateh, who is the wife of a Persian Civil Engineer, and lives in Persia.

Mrs. Taylor has been noted for her kindness and many good deeds throughout her life in Colton. Always a loyal church member, she had the welfare of St. Mary's Church, Colton, deeply at heart, attending the Remembrance Sunday Service only a few days before she was taken ill.

Mrs. Taylor has been on the Colton Parochial Church Council for many years, and at the time of her death was Deputy Peoples' Warden. Since June, 1956, Enrolling Member of the Colton Mothers' Union, she gave the branch its banner, in memory of her first husband. Mrs. Taylor was a founder member of the Colton Women's Institute and always on its committee; she has been Vice-president of late years, but for several years had held office as President. She has been for some years Convener of the Parkside Group of Women's Institutes.

Mrs. Taylor has been the only Lady member of Colton Parish Council for many years, and has held office as Chairman (this office now being held by her son, Luke, whose father held the office for many years up till his death).

Mrs. Taylor was also a member of the Colton Parish Lands Trust, and a member of Colton Village Produce Guild, and enjoyed their annual County dinner only a few weeks ago. Various house-to-house collections and the like have been organised by Mrs. Taylor for many years. She has been an active helper at the annual church garden party since these functions started some 21 years ago.

The funeral service took place at Colton Church, with the interment at St. John's Churchyard, Kingstone. The Rector, Rev. A. S. Towlson conducted the service, Mr. D. E. Waters read the lesson, and Mrs. G. E. Finnemore was the organist. Hymns were "Lead is Heavenly Father," Jesu, Lover of my Soul," and "Abide with me."

Bearers were nephews, Messrs. Luke Mellor, G. A. Mellor, H. S. C. Mellor and Charles Mellor.

Mrs. Murphy and Mrs. Owen.

Colton.—A general knowledge quiz was the highlight at the January meeting. The Question Master was Mr. D. E. Waters and score keeper Mrs. Waters. The contest was between Women's Institute and Village Produce Guilds teams the W.I. being the victors. Members of the teams were: W.I., Mrs. P. M. Buckley, Mrs. I. Preston, Mrs. M. S. Toy, Mrs B. Barham, Mrs. N. Jones and Mrs. I. R. Brown; Produce Guild, Messrs. T. Preston and J. H. Toy, Mrs. B. M Ravenscroft, Miss D. M. Jones, Mrs. C. M. Sanders and Mrs. L. Jackson. The questions were varied

MRS. J. L. TAYLOR.—Mrs Julia Lizzie Taylor, of Littlehay Manor Farm, Colton, has died in Staffordshire General Infirmary aged 66. Mrs Taylor (nee Plant) was the widow of Mr Frank Taylor who died two months ago. Previously she was married to Mr George Mellor who died in 1943. There are two married sons, George and Luke Mellor who farm the Manor Farm and one daughter, Mrs Monica Fateh, wife of a Persian civil engineer. Mrs Taylor was always a loyal Church member and had the welfare of St Mary's Church, Colton, deeply at heart. She attended the Remembrance Sunday service only a few days before she was taken ill. Mrs Taylor has been on Colton Parochial Church Council for many years, and at the time of her death was deputy people's warden. Enrolling member of the Colton Mothers Union, she gave the branch its banner, in memory of her first husband. Mrs Taylor was a founder member of Colton Women's Institute but for several years held the office of president. For some years she was convenor of the Parkside Group of Women's Institute. Mrs Taylor was the only woman member of Colton Parish Council for many years, and had been chairman, an office now held by her son, Luke. Mrs Taylor was also a member of the Colton Parish Lands Trust and a member of Colton Village Produce Guild. An active organiser of house to house collections she was a keen helper at the annual church garden parties since they started 21 years ago. The funeral service was at Colton church with interment at St John's Churchyard, Kingstone. The Rector, the Rev A. S. Towlson, conducted the service. Mr D. E. Waters read the lesson and Mrs. G. E. Finnsmore was the organist. Bearers were Messrs Luke Mellor, G. A. Mellor, H. S. C. Mellor and Charles Mellor. Mourners: Mr and Mrs D. G. Mellor, Mr and Mrs Luke Mellor, sons and daughters in law: Mrs M. J. Fateh, daughter; Mr and Mrs W. Tavenor, sister and brother in law: Mr A. Plant, brother; Mrs D. H. Plant, sister in law; Mr and Mrs W. H. Plant, Mr Leslie Plant, Mr and Mrs G. A. Mellor, Mr and Mrs L. Mellor, Mr H. S. G. Mellor, Mr C. Mellor, and Mr C. Phillips, Miss M. Plant, Miss N. Tavenor, Mr and Mrs W. Grindey, Mrs E. Houldcroft, Mrs B. Powell, nephews and nieces; Misses J. and G. Taylor, sisters in law, Mrs A. Taylor, sister in law, Mr and Mrs G. U. G. Shufflebottom and Miss Ina Plant, cousins; Mrs A. Smithard, Mr J. James, Mr G. E. Hunt, Mr H. D. Pollard, Mr Said Fateh, Mr E. Nickolson, Mr and Mrs W. Atkins, Mr and Mrs L. Bradley, Mr and Mrs C. Craddock, Mr and Mrs F. Wilkinson, Mrs E. Allen, Mr Rupert Evans. Also attending were Mrs W. Eaton, Mrs A. Leeke, Mrs L. Eckleston, Mr and Mrs Bernard Bettson, Mr and Mrs J. A. Best, Mr and Mrs A. N. Felton, Mrs C. J. A. Payton, M.U. Deanery presiding member, Mr and Mrs T. Preston, Mrs E. M. Challoner, Mr and Mrs W. C. Sargeant, Mrs C. Willis and Mr J. R. Willis, Mr and Mrs W. J. Jones, Mrs Mary Parkinson, Mrs M. Kent, Mrs G. Vernon, Mr R. Morrall, Mr and Mrs F. S. Knight, senior, Mr and Mrs F. S. Knight, junior, Mr and Mrs G. A. Chilton, Mrs F. H. Bannister, Mr and Mrs H. Rushton, Mr and Mrs W. J. Parr, Mr R. W. and Miss W. Parr, Mr J. Satterthwiate, Mr and Mrs J. H. Toy, Mr and Mrs Fred Hardcastle, Mr Fred Norman, Mr Dora Deacon, Mr and Mrs P. W Westhorpe, Mrs F. W. and Miss D A. Cooper, Mr A. J. and Mr Alan Smith, Mr and Mrs G. E. D. Atkin, Mr and Mrs C. J. Ravenscroft, Mr and Mrs H. Shipley, and Mrs Maureen Dix, Mrs F. Grimley, Mrs L. M. Wain, Miss Ellen Rotchell, Mr C. Bannister, Mr B. A. Holmes, Mr J. Tittensor, Mrs Waters and Kevin, Mr and Mrs M. Williscroft, Mr W. Finnemore, Miss C. N. L. Williscroft, also rep. Miss D. M. Jones, Mrs B. T. Jackson, Mr M. and Miss J. Jones, Mrs A. L. Cooper, Mrs A. Meddings, Mr and Mrs J. Charles, Mrs G. M. Upton, Mr and Mrs A. I. D. Collins, Misses Ruth Ravenscroft and Christine Leeke, Mrs B. Heasman also rep. Mrs E. Barton and Blithfield W.I., Mrs Rock rep. Abbots Bromley Mothers Union, Miss Sale, Mrs P. M. Buckley, Mrs A. Devall, Mrs Gamble, Miss C. Burns, Mr and Mrs E. L. Devalle, Mr and Mrs G. F. Upton, Mrs M. Allerton, Mrs O. Gallimore and Mrs Warrington, Kingstone, Mrs G. Williscroft, Mothers Union members formed a guard of honour with Mrs Bettson as banner bearer. Floral tributes included those from George and Greta: Luke and Margery; Monica and Amir: Janie; Joanna, Matthew and Simon: Mike, Mark and Tine: Nell, Walter and Nellie; brother Albert and family; Molly and family: George and Nellie; Daisy, Ina and Doreen: Auntie Lucy and Lizzie; Margaret, Holland and Mr and Mrs O'Shea; Annie, B... and family; Barbara and Jock; Luke, rreda and family; Mary Mellor and family; George and Gladys; Herbert, Annie and family; Elsie, Ted, Jennie, Gladys, and Ethel; John and Ida Price and family; Charlie, Nancy and family; Eisie; Lisa, Charles, Janet and Peter; Kate and Fred Wilkinson; Mrs Ivy James and family; Nellie, Len and David; Mrs Ashton and sons; Molly and George Hubball; Molly, Guy and children Nancy Hubball; Jill, Nick; Barbara and Ken; Said; Mr and Mrs Nicholson and Olga; Sid, Ethel, John and Gwen, (Willis) Bobbie, Bernard and children; Mrs Boycott and family; Cissie, Alice and Annie; and Mrs F. S. Knight, senior; and Mrs Wain and family; Mr and Mrs Claude Upton; Frank and Ena Knight and family; Alex, Peter, Roderick and Jennifer; Mr and Mrs A. J. Smith; Allan and Linda Smith, Tony and Josephine Chilton; Mr H. H. Goodin; Bernard and Lily Bettson; Mrs Challinor; Nellie Williscroft; Mrs Alice Cooper, Marjorie and Dorothy; Mr and Mrs Smithard and family; Mr and Mrs Pomlett; P. and N. Westhorpe; Michael Jones; Mr and Mrs Jones, Barbara and Leslie; Jack and Nora James; David and George; Mr and Mrs Fred Hardcastle; Hannah Yates; Mr T. Southall; Maureen Dix; Mrs Cooper (Darlings) and family; Rupert; Winnie and Bill; Joseph Tittensor and family; Mr and Mrs J. Charles and family; Mr and Mrs Waters and Kevin; Mr and Mrs J. W. Hooley and family; Mr and Mrs Allen and family; Mr and Mrs Eccleston and family; George and Dorothy Atkin and family; Colton Mothers Union friends Colton Parish Council; Colton Parochial Church Council; Colton Women's Institute; Colton Village Produce Guild; Colton Village Hall Management Committee; Blithfield Women's Institute and Parkside Group Womens' Institutes.

4D COLTON 6/1/64

QUIZ.—A general knowledge quiz was the highlight of the January meeting of Colton Womens Institute. The question master was Mr D. E. Waters and storekeeper Mrs. Waters. The contest was between the Womens Institute and Village Produce Guilds with the W.I. being the victors. Members of the teams were: W.I. Mrs P. M. Buckley, Mrs I. Preston, Mrs M. S. Toy, Mrs B. Barham, Mrs N. Jones and Mrs I. R. Brown. Produce Guild Messrs T. Preston and J. H. Toy, Mrs B. M. Ravenscroft, Miss D. M. Jones, Mrs C. M. Sanders and Mrs L. Jackson.

Hera SERVICE

Attendance at the annual Service on Sunday evening Mary's Church Colton, wa... The choir was somewhat d... but those present were a... in the carols they sang al...

The service was conduc... the Rector, Rev. A. S. T... and Mrs. G. E. Finnemore ... the Organ. Collections ... taken by, Messrs Bernard ... son and A. N. Felton. ... readers were Mr. C. M. B... (Village Produce Guild); ... A. Cooper (Mothers' Union) ... Fred Hardcastle (Parish ...

brought to an end ... gramme of Christmas mu... Joseph Haydn's "Creati... Handel's "Messiah" perf... staff and pupils of B... Secondary School, Hi... nesday evening. The ... orchestra are pictured ... the school hall.

To the accompaniment ... orchestra and occasiona... school's recorder group the ... ists in "The Creation" were J... Wason, Jane Collier and H... Buckingham (sopranos), J... Harris and Charles Allsopp (teno... and Michael Cunnion (bass). ... the "Messiah" they were Patric... Mason and Helen Buckingham (sopranos) and Margaret Ward and Diana Biddulph (contraltos).

4D 7/12/63

COFFEE. — A coffee evening a concert was held in the scho... Colton, on Friday, proceeds ... which were for the appeal fund ... Colton St. Mary's Church. Th... artistes at the concert were children of the church choir, and pupils from the Rugeley Studio of Dancing trained by Mrs. V. M. Towlson. Acting as compere was Mrs. Naomi Alexander, of Etching Hill. Junior students from the studio first performed 'Alice in Wonderland.' This was followed by tableau and carols by junior members of the choir. Next came a medley by the choir, 'Three little fishes', sung by Christine Peake, Pamela Jones and Kathleen Norman; 'Little Donkey' sung by Gwendoline Ravenscroft; 'Bless this House' sung by Melvyn Collins, Stephen Hibbs, Keith Williscroft and Tony Wright. The highland fling was danced by Ann Madders. The 'Legend of the Christmas Rose' was staged by the junior students. At the piano were the Rector, Rev. A. S. Towlson, and Mrs. G. E. Finnemore. A piano solo, 'Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring', was played by Michele Pomlett. Refreshments were in the hands of Mrs. M. Williscroft and her helpers, and the bring and buy stall was attended to by Mrs. R. Grimley and Mrs. T. Jones. The Rector, in addressing the well attended event, announced that the proceeds from the evening had hit the target £2,500 appeal started five years ago. He went on to say that the evening's event had been an idea of the late Mrs. Julia Taylor, and asked the company to stand with him in silence as a tribute. The raffle which Mrs. Taylor had promoted had been carried on by her son, Mr. Luke Mellor. Winners in this were Mr. J. H. Wright (turkey), Miss Cathy Chilton (whisky), Bettson, Kingstone (port), Mrs. N. Westhorpe (sherry), 'Julie', Lea Hall Canteen (chicken), Mr. Rupert Evans (tin of biscuits), Mrs. M. Vernon (Christmas cake), Mr E. J. Pearson (box of chocolates), Melvyn Collins (tin of sweets), Mrs. D. R. Shaw (tablecloth), R. Jones (tea and tea cosy), Paul Devall (½lb. tea), Mrs. Wain (cigarettes), Mrs. Ivy Preston (doll), Tina Fareh (Christmas pudding). Mr. D. E. Waters attended to the takings at the door.

W.I. — Presiding over a good attendance at the December meeting of Colton Women's Institute held in the Reading Room, the president, Mrs. I. Preston, welcomed members and friends, and opened the meeting by paying tribute to one of the vice-presidents, the late Mrs. Julia L. Taylor, reminding members that she was one of the founder-members of the Colton W.I. All stood in silent tribute. The minutes of the November meeting were read and confirmed. An invitation was accepted from Etching Hill W.I. to their New Year party. Very little business needed attention, and was followed by the president introducing Miss Cadman, of Rodbaston Farm Institute, who gave a demonstration on cake icing and judged the competition for entrepot awarding the prize to Mrs. Preston. A vote of thanks was proposed to Miss Cadman by Mrs. C. M. Sanders. The well - stocked Christmas stall was in charge of Mrs. K. Jones and Miss Ellen Rothall. Tea hostesses were Mrs D. M. Aston, Mrs. E. M. Sargeant and Mrs. M. S. Toy. A raffle for an iced cake, given by Mrs. Jones, was won

TIMES 11/1/64

Part of the evening's programme at Colton Village Produce Guild's party on Thursday, was a selection of barn dances. Watched by members and their guests, the caller, Mr. Jack Brown, gives a demonstration with Miss Mary Preston.

Colton Produce Guild holds New Year party

Members of Colton Village Produce Guild held their New Year social evening on Thursday of last week when the chairman, Mr. T. Preston welcomed guests, including Colwich members, at the Reading Room.

Mr. J. H. Toy was M.C., and music for dancing and musical games was provided by David Ryall's band. Mr. Jack Brown was caller for the barn dancing

Refreshments had been prepared by some of the members. Miss Betty Harrison won the bottle of sherry and Mr. Percy Tabenor a box of chocolates.

4D COLTON 3/1/1964

PARENT-TEACHER.- A meeting arranged by the Parent-Teacher Association was held in the Church of England School to discuss evacuation to premises at Colwich School during modernisation and extension of Colton School. The chairman, Mr. D E Waters, expressed disappointment that neither the Director of Education nor his assistant was able to attend. Present at the meeting were the Rector, the Rev. A S Towlson, and Mr. W. Bourne, headmaster of Colwich School. Mr. Towlson explained plans which were on view and said that the present school had been in use for 102 years. The modernisation and extension work was likely to cost £23,000 to £25,000. Mr. Bourne explained that the Colton school would be in a completely self-contained block at Colwich and that work would start there on February 18. Transport will be by bus. It was agreed to arrange a rummage sale and work stall and also a summer outing. Up to that evening membership of the association was stated to be 31 paid up members and more joined later in the evening. It was elected not to hold an annual general meeting till next year.

Sentinel COLTON 10/1/64

GUILD SOCIAL. — On Thursday last week Colton Village Produce Guild held their annual New Year social in the Reading Room which had been gaily decorated by members. There was a good attendance of members and friends, who were welcomed by the Chairman (Mr. T. Preston) with a special welcome to Colwich Guild members. Mr. J. H. Toy was M.C. and music for various kinds of dancing and for musical games was provided by David Ryall's Band. For the barn dancing included in the programme, Mr. Jack Brown was the caller. Wall games were also arranged. Refreshments had been prepared by some of the members. The raffle was won by Miss Betty Harrison (bottle of sherry) and Mr. Percy Tabernor (box of chocolates). The singing of Auld Lang Syne brought an enjoyable evening to a close.

4D COLTON 2/1/64

SERVICE. — Attendance at the annual carol service on Sunday evening at St. Mary's Church, Colton, was quite good. The choir was somewhat depleted; nevertheless those who were present were a credit in the various carols they sang alone. The service was conducted by the rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, and Mrs. G. E. Finnemore was at the organ. Collections were taken by Messrs. Bernard Bettson and A. N. Felton. Lesson readers were representatives of the various village organisations, and were: The Prophecy, Mr. C. M. Boycott (Village Produce Guild); The Annunciation. Mrs. E. A. Cooper (Mothers' Union); The Birth of Jesus, Mr. Fred Hardcastle (Parish Council); The Shepherds, Miss Ruth Ravenscroft (Youth Club); The Wise Men, Mr. D. J. Bradbury (Village Hall Entertainments Committee); The Wise Men Visit Jesus, Mrs. B.

TIMES 25/1/64

Because two or three of the regular active helpers cannot give their time this year and work on Colton school will make booking difficult, the 1964 Colton Show Committee has decided to hold a small evening show on September 5, instead of the usual day show.

Mr. T. Preston has agreed to be chairman of the committee and Mr. J. Meddings vice-chairman,

Herald Colton Social 10/1/64

On Thursday evening last week Colton Village Produce Guild held their annual New Year Social in the Reading Room which had been gaily decorated by members. A good gathering of members and friends was welcomed by the Chairman, Mr. T. Preston.

Mr. J. H. Toy was the M.C. and music was provided by David Ryall's band. Mr. Jack Brown was the caller for barn dancing. The competitions were

Times 1/2/64

Colton W.I.'s New Year party was held in the Reading Room on Wednesday, and guests included representatives from Etching Hill and Slitting Mill W.I.s. The party took the form of a social evening with buffet refreshments. Mr. W. C. Barham arranged the games, in conjunction with Mr. T. Done (pianist). Mrs. I. Preston (president) is seen seated in the centre of the group.

Times 1/2/64

A WELL-ATTENDED meeting of Colton Church School Parent-Teacher Association on Thursday of last week, heard details of the long-awaited plans for the modernisation and extension of the 102 years-old village school.

Mr. D. E. Waters (headmaster) presided and expressed disappointment that neither the Director of Education, nor his assistant, had found it possible to attend the meeting. The object of the meeting was to discuss problems in connection with the complete evacuation of the school to Colwich when workmen took over.

Supporting Mr. Waters were the Rev. A. S. Towlson (rector) and Mr. W. Bourne (headmaster of Colwich School). The rector explained the plans, which were on view, and said the work was likely to cost between £23,000 and £25,000. When completed, the school would be second to none, he said.

Mr. Bourne explained that at Colwich there would be a self-contained block (the old school) put at the disposal of Colton School. The move would take place on February 17 and the children would start work at Colwich on February 18, travelling daily by special bus.

Mr. A. C. Preston asked if the village sewerage system would be completed by the time the school was ready for the pupils to return. The rector pointed out that this was not a question for that meeting, but for the parish assembly.

Councillor F. Hardcastle said the blame for the delay could be laid on the Parochial Church Council, but the rector replied that it was more than 12 months since the pumping station matter was settled.

It was decided to have a rummage sale and work stall on March 7 and to hold an outing in the summer. Paid-up membership was 31, it was stated, but more members joined during the evening. The annual meeting has been postponed until next year.

Same

COLTON 21/2/64

M.U. PARTY.—A pleasant evening was spent on Shrove Tuesday, when Colton Mothers' Union members, with their families and other guests met for the annual party in the Reading Room. Members of Blithfield Mothers' Union joined with Colton members, and Mrs. P. B. Best extended a welcome to all. Mr. D. E. Waters said grace. Following the tastefully laid out meal, there was a whist drive with Mr. Bernard Bettson as M.C. —the winners were Mrs. F. Shipley, Mrs. L. Bettson, Mrs. Z. Rowe and Mrs. H. M. Felton—and a beetle drive with Miss D. M. Jones as M.C., the winners being Gwendoline Ravenscroft, Marilyn and Melvyn Collins. Miss Jones played the piano for musical chairs which was won by Mrs. N. Vernon. Mr. J. A. Best gave one of his ever-popular film shows, taking one back to the Bellamour barbecue and traction engine rallies, Mothers' Union members at Wharf Cottage and barn dancing at Hamley Lodge. The display ended with views of Colton School staff and pupils. A raffle organised by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft was won by Mrs H. V. Lucas (teapot) and the Rector (the Rev. A. S. Towlson) cream jug. Blithfield's Enrolling Member (Mrs.

Times 8/2/64

Members of Colton M.U. with their families and other guests, were joined by members of Blithfield M.U., for their annual party held in the Reading Room on Tuesday. Mrs. P. B. Best welcomed all.

The meal was followed by a whist drive, with Mr. B. Bettson as M.C. Winners were Mrs. F. Shipley, Mrs. D. Bettson, Mrs. Z. Rowe and Mrs. H. M. Felton.

Miss D. M. Jones was M.C. for the Beetle Drive, winners of which were Gwendoline Ravenscroft, Marilyn and Melvyn Collins.

Mis Jones played for musical chairs, the winner being Mrs. N. Vernon.

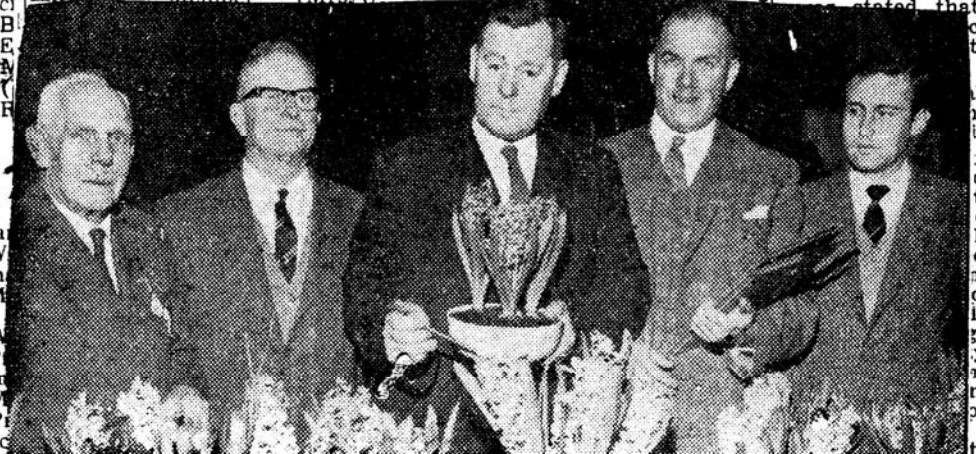
Mr. J. A. Best gave one of his popular film shows, taking viewers back to the Bellamour barbeque and traction engine rally, M.U. members at his home, and barn dancing at Hamely Lodge. The programme ended with views of Colton School, staff and pupils.

A raffle organised by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft was won by Mrs. H. V. Lucas and the Rev. A. S. Towlson (rector).

Blithfield enrolling member, Mrs.

STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE PRODUCE GUILDS

At the opening of the bi-monthly meeting of the Executive Committee of the Staffordshire Association of Village Produce Guilds, held in the Committee Room of the Borough Hall, Stafford, the chairman, Mr. J. D. Lewis, welcomed back Mr. C. F. Horton (National Federation Chairman) of Lichfield, after his car accident.



Mercury

Colton W.I. Part

Colton Women's Instit... nual New Year party, ... fortnight later than usua... somewhat poorly attend... members. Those attending ... their guests, and visitors ... Etching Hill and Slitting ... W.Is. had an enjoyable ev...

The company were we... by President, Mrs. I. P... who then handed over t... W. C. Barham (acting as ... and Mr. Tom Done at the ... for dancing and games. ... refreshments were a chang... the usual "knife and fork" ... The raffle, in the charge o... B. M. Ravenscroft was ... Miss D. M. Jones (chicke... Mr. Barham (chocolates).

The annual meeting ... Youth Section of the "Fri... Cannock Chase" was ... Colwich school hall on S... but was poorly attended ... to the Midland Red 'bus ...

In the absence of the ch... Mr. Richard Baker, thro... ness the secretary, Mr. ... Cheney presided, and w... Mr. S. G. Brown, chairm... J. A. Best, secretary an... members of the main s... the "Friends."

A discussion took plac... whether it was worth wh... rying on the Youth Sect... interest seemed to have ... throughout the last year, ... was decided to try and ... interest. Therefore a co... for the coming year was ...

Those elected were: Ch... Mr. Richard Baker; se... Mr. Denis Cheney; the re... were the Misses Lesley ... and Ruth Ravenscroft, ... Bennett, Robert Ives and ... Sturland.

Mr. Brown, speaking on ... of the main section, said t... was pleased to know that ... would be another year ... Youth Section, as he ha... his doubts, but it was en... ing to see that most of t... vious committee were w... stand again.

Future activities were di... and the meeting was bro... a close with coffee and ... served by Mrs. Cheney.

Mercury 14

COLTON PRODU... GUILD

At the February meeti... Colton Village Produce ... held in the Reading Roo... Thursday last week, the ... man, Mr. T. Preston, wel... Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Bro... Mr. Broughton who now ... Walton-on-the-Hill, was ... master of Colton Church o... land School for 36 years, ... retired in 1959.

Mr. Broughton gave a ... structive talk on the graft... fruit trees.

Members' thanks were ... pressed by Mr. C. J. Rave... to Mr. Broughton, who wit... Broughton judged the bo... hyacinths awarding 1st a... places to Mrs. B. M. Rave... and 3rd to Miss D. M. ... The winners in the points ... which is now discontinued, ... I. Preston and Mr. Jack ... each received a 'Super Star' ... bush.

Tea hostesses were the ... Ruth and Gwendoline R... croft, assisted by Mrs. ... Preston and Miss Eileen Ne...

Colton.—At the Fe... meeting held in the R... Room, the President (... Preston) welcomed ... S. H. B. Jerrett, of S... who gave a delightful ac... of her journey to N... and of her five weeks' h... there, leaving members ... a wish to visit N... themselves. Miss Jerrett ...

talk to Produce Guild

THE ... chairman. Mr. T. Preston, welcomed a former headmaster of Colton School, Mr. Ernest Broughton, and Mrs. Broughton to the February meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild in the Reading Room on Thursday last week.

Mr. Broughton, who now lives at Walton-on-the-Hill, Stafford, was headmaster at Colton for 36 years before his retirement in 1959. Many of his former pupils are members of the Produce Guild.

Mr. Broughton, having extensive knowledge of horticulture, gave an interesting talk on the grafting of fruit trees, which he declared to be the finest of propagation.

With the use of a blackboard he demonstrated several methods of grafting, mainly in connection with apple and pear trees. Mr. Broughton named several local people whose fruit trees showed the success of his grafting, and some members expressed an interest in learning about grafting for themselves.

Mr. C. J. Ravenscroft thanked Mr. Broughton for his talk.

Mr. and Mrs. Broughton judged a competition for bowls of hyacinths, daffodils for the bulb show not yet held in Colton, and awarded first and second prizes to Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft. The third prize was won by Miss D. M. Jones.

The system of points system, which has now been discontinued. Mrs. I. Preston and Mr. Jack Broughton each received a Super Star certificate. Mrs. Broughton made the presentation.

Tea hostesses were the Misses Ruth and Gwendoline Ravenscroft, assisted by Mrs. E. Preston and Miss Eileen Norman.

Business items which were discussed during the evening included arrangements for transport to the county bulb show at Whitmore Village Hall. Mr. P. Tabernor said Colton would had invited Colton members to share their coach.

PRODUCE GUILD.—At the February meeting of Colton Village Produce Guild held in the Reading Room, the Chairman (Mr. T. Preston) presided and extended a welcome to Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Broughton. Mr. Broughton, who now lives at Walton-on-the-Hill, was Headmaster of Colton Church of England School for 36 years, till he retired in 1959. Many of his former pupils are now members of the Guild. Mr. Broughton, who has extensive horticultural knowledge, gave an interesting and instructive talk on the grafting of fruit trees, which he declared to be the highlight of propagation. With the use of a blackboard he demonstrated several methods of grafting [illegible] apple and pear trees. Mr. Broughton named several local [illegible] whose fruit trees showed the success of his grafting, and some members expressed an interest in learning about grafting for themselves. Mr. C. J. Ravenscroft thanked Mr. Broughton for his talk. Mr. and Mrs. Broughton judged a competition for bowls of hyacinths, daffodils for the bulb show not yet held in Colton, and awarded first and second prizes to Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft. The third prize was won by Miss D. M. Jones. The system of points system, which has now been discontinued, Mrs. I. Preston and Mr. Jack Broughton each received a Super Star certificate. Mrs. Broughton made the presentation. Tea hostesses were the Misses Ruth and Gwendoline Ravenscroft, assisted by Mrs. E. Preston and Miss Eileen Norman. Business items which were discussed during the evening included arrangements for transport to the county bulb show at Whitmore Village Hall. Mr. P. Tabernor said Colton would had invited Colton members to share their coach.

TIMES 15/2/64

Members of Colton Village Produce Guild pictured at their meeting on Thursday of last week when a talk on grafting was given by former schoolmaster Mr. E. Broughton.

W.I.—Colton Women's Institute held their February meeting in the Reading Room. It was nomination evening. Mrs I. Preston was in the chair. Business items discussed were a proposed visit to a theatre and it was agreed this be arranged for early in March. Names were taken of members wishing to attend the Spring meeting of the Parkside Group at Hixon on March 17 when the speaker will be Lady Dyer. Mrs Preston gave a few details regarding the show. The guest speaker was Miss S. H. B. Jerrett of Sandon. She was welcomed by the president. Mrs. Jerrett gave an account of her journey to Norway and of her five weeks holiday there. Miss Jerrett was thanked by Miss D. M. Jones. The tea hostesses were Mrs L. Bettson, Mrs I. R. Brown, Mrs C. M. Sanders and Mrs P. B. Best. The mystery prize went to Mrs B. Barham.

A pleasant evening was spent on Shrove Tuesday, when Colton Mothers' Union members, with their families, and other guests, met for the annual party in the reading room. Members of Blithfield M.U. joined with Colton members, and Mrs. P. B. Best welcomed them all. Mr. D. E. Waters asked that sick members and those who had "passed on" be remembered.

Following the tastefully laid out meal, a whist drive, with Mr. Bernard Bettson was M.C., was held, the winners being Mrs. F. Shipley, Mrs. L. Bettson, Mrs. Z. Rowe and Mrs. H. M. Felton.

A beetle drive, with Miss D. M. Jones as M.C., winners being Gwendoline Ravenscroft, Marilyn and Melvyn Collins, was also held.

Miss Jones played the piano for musical chairs, which was won by Mrs. N. Vernon. Mr. J. A. Best gave a film show.

A raffle organised by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft was won by Mrs. H. V. Lucas (tea-pot) and the Rector, Rev. A. S. Towlson (cream jug). Blithfield enrolling member, Mrs. Vernon, expressed their thanks to Colton for an enjoyable evening.

21/2/64

COLTON

Colton W.I. February meeting in the Reading Room was nomination evening, Mrs. I. Preston was in the chair. A visit to a theatre will be arranged for early in March. Names were taken of members wishing to attend the Spring meeting of the Parkside Group at Hixon on March 17, when the speaker will be Lady Dyer. Mrs. Preston gave a few details regarding the show. The guest speaker was Miss S. H. B. Jerrett of Sandon, who was welcomed by the President. Miss Jerrett gave a delightful account of her journey to Norway and of

STAFFORDSHIRE'S 17th village produce guild was born—a Slitting Mill—on Friday when villagers attending a specia meeting in the Victory Hall voted in favour of forming Slittn Mill Garden Produce Guild. TIMES 15/2/64

Councillor A. L. Rowley, chairman of the Village Hall Committee, presided ast the inaugural meeting, which had been called by Mr. Harry Walker, of 2, Forge Row, Slitting Mill.

"There seems to be a flair for this sort of thing in the small villages and it will certainly be one way of getting the hall used more than it is," said Councillor Rowley, introducing Mr. J. D. Lewis, of Colwich (county chairman) and Mr. D. M. Gibb (county secretary).

About 30 residents of Slitting Mill were present and the majority later signed application forms for membership.

The following were elected to form a steering committee to get the guild started; Councillor Rowley, Councillor A. R. Westmancott, Mrs. Westmancott, Mr. J. Trotman, Mr. W. J. Roberts, Mrs. M. Hill, Mr. W. C. White, Mr. F. P. Whitehouse, Mr. R. Goodman Mr. and Mrs. H. Walker.

It was decided that meeting should take place on the first Fri day of each month, the first bein on March 6, and that the commit tee should meet to discuss a pro gramme on February 21.

Mr. Gibb s howed films o achievements by Colton Villag Produce Guild and events which they had attended, taken by Mr. S J. Timmins.

Mr. Lewis said he was delighted as county chairman, to be able t put the Village Produce Guil Association's views to so man people, for they tried to take ever opportunity of forming new guilds "Mr. Hancock, of Colwich, gav the idea to Mr. Walker, and thi meeting shows how a seed, how ever small, can bring forth a organisation like this," he said.

'BINDS FAMILY"

The women have their Women' Institute, the men have their ow club, perhaps the British Legion but the Village Produce Guil binds all the family together b providing something of interest t both sexes, to young and old, h said.

Living on the edge of the beau tiful Cannock Chase as they were they would probably be able to d equally as well as Colton had don in the films which they had jus seen, said Mr. Lewis.

He explained the national an the county set-up of the associa tion and told Slitting Mill tha Staffordshire were the presen holders of the Mabella Shield, fo achieving the greatest increase i membership and in the sale o "Village Life," of which Mrs. B M. Ravenscroft was county Pres correspondent.

"It makes such a difference whe an area has a guild to which al can belong. Despite what is hap pening in international politics, w can still enjoy our village life an its friendship," said Mr. Lewis.

He pointed out, with the sup port of Mr. Gibb, some of the ad vantages which can be gained b garden lovers if they join a villag produce guild.

Advertiser 6/2/64

PRODUCE GUILDS. — At the opening of the bi-monthly meeting of the executive committee of the Staffordshire Association of Village Produce Guilds, held in the committee room of the Borough Hall, Stafford, the chairman Mr I. D. Lewis, welcomed back Mr C. F. Horton (National Federation chairman) after a car accident and extended a welcome to Mr Shaw from the newly formed Wedges Mills and District Guild. It was stated that a new guild had recently been formed at Marchington, near Uttoxeter. The chairman said he thought this would prove to be a strong guild. A meeting is to take place at Slitting Mill over a possible guild. A discussion took place regarding the 'Harrison Trophy' and it was decided to have the flower arrangement competition on much the same lines of last year Final details regarding the county bulb show on February 15 in Whitmore village hall were decided and a few matters in connection with the A.G.M. at the Farm Institute Rodbaston on April 25 were discussed. A conference for officers and guild members has been arranged at Eaton Lodge, Rugeley for May 13. It was agreed that arrangements be made for a county rally to Capesthorne Hall on June 27 also to have the annual harvest supper at the same place as last year. It was decided that a team be entered in the national quiz, and to invite guilds to submit names. The chairman reminded members that the office of president was vacant, and it was decided that guilds be asked to suggest suitable persons to be nominated before the next executive meeting.

Sentinel 9/3/64

old school

Colton School, which has been in use for 102 years, is to be modernised and extended at a cost estimated

TIMES 22/2/64

At the February meeting of Colton Women's Institute, Miss S. H. B. Jerrett, of Sandon, gave a talk on her five weeks visit to Norway. She was thanked by Miss D. M. Jones, who has herself spent a holiday in Norway.

A theatre visit was arranged for early March and names were taken of members wishing to attend the

Farmer dies at the age of 42

A wellknown member of the farming community at Colton passed away at the age of 42 in the General Infirmary, Birmingham. He was Mr. Frank Stephen Knight, of Crabtree Farm, Colton, the elder son of Mr. F. S. Knight and the late Mrs. Knight, who came to the Crabtree Farm from the Abbots Bromley district 27 years ago.

On the retirement of his parents, Mr. Knight, jun., took over the farm. He married Miss Enid Smith, of Admaston, and they lived for a time in Wolseley-road, Rugeley.

There are two children, Nigel and Delia. Much sympathy has been extended to Mrs. Knight (who lost her mother less than a fortnight ago) and other members of the family.

...rish Council are con... because they have not been ...ally notified of the improve... ments to be carried out at the Trent Valley corner, for which they have been pressing for two-and-a-half years. They have noticed that signs have been erected and have seen Press reports that road widening is to be carried out there, but that is all.

At their February meeting, held under the chairmanship of Councillor L. Mellor, it was unanimously agreed that the question of diversion of a footpath at the top end of Colton be left to Lichfield Rural Council to resolve as the path has been out of use for more than five years and no complaint has been made. It was pointed out that the parish council told the rural council as far back as 1958 that a house had been sited on this footpath.

They decided that a proposed diversion of a footpath known as Long Stile would be acceptable to them. The dumping of household refuse in the pithole at Bank Top was brought to their notice and members agreed unanimously that a notice forbidding dumping should be erected there.

It was reported that a meeting between Councillors Mellor and F. Hardcastle with Mr. Davies and Mr. Burkinshaw at the bus shelter resulted in a promise that the shelter would be completed as soon as possible.

Councillor Hardcastle reported that the sewage scheme had been approved and was due to commence this year. There was also a discussion regarding the school alterations.

In reply to a question regarding the heating of the Village Hall, it was stated that estimates were being sought.

Councillor Hardcastle agreed to represent the parish council at the conference on the welfare of old people, to be called by Lichfield Rural Council.

COLTON

W.I. — Colton Womens Institute annual new year party, held a fortnight later than usual, was poorly attended by members. Those attending with their guests and visitors from Etching Hill and Slitting Mill W.I.s had a most enjoyable evening. The company received a welcome from the president Mrs I. Preston, who then handed over to Mr W. C. Barham, acting as M.C. and Mr Tom Done at the piano, for dancing and games. Buffet refreshments were a change from the usual 'knife and fork' meal. The raffle in charge of Mrs B. M. Ravenscroft was won by Miss D. M. Jones, dressed chicken and Mr Barham box of chocolates.

INTEREST in the youth section of the Friends of Cannock Chase has been waning throughout the year and at the annual meeting on Saturday there was a discussion as to whether it was worthwhile continuing the section. Members decided, however, to try to revive interest and a committee was formed.

The meeting, which was held in Colwich school, felt the effect of the Midland Red bus strike, there being a very poor attendance. In the absence, through illness, of their chairman, Mr. Richard Baker, the secretary, Mr. Denis Cheney, presided. He welcomed Mr. G. S. Brown (chairman), Mr. J. A. Best (secretary) and other members of the main section of the "Friends."

Speaking on behalf of the main section, Mr. Brown said he was very pleased to know that there would be another year of the youth section, as he had had doubts about this. It was encouraging to see that most of the previous year's committee were willing to stand again.

Further activities were discussed and it was decided to hold a rummage sale in March for the benefit of funds.

The following were elected: Chairman, Mr. Richard Baker; secretary, Mr. Denis Cheney; committee members, Miss Lesley Holden, Miss Ruth Ravenscroft, Mr. Richard Bennett, Mr. Robert Ives and Mr. Robert Sturland.

Only two points behind the winners (Ashley Guild) Colwich Village Produce Guild gaind second place in the Staffordshire Association of Village Produce Guilds' bulb show at Whitmore Village Hall on Saturday.

Prizes were presented by Mrs. J. D. Lewis, wife of the county chairman and chairman of Colwich guild but the award for the highest number of points will be handed over at the annual meeting in April.

There was a good representation of the guilds and an attractive array of bulbs were on exhibition. The judge was Mr. R. K. Mowforth of the County Farm Institute, Rodbaston.

Among individual winners were the following Colwich competitors: Mrs. Lewis (pink hyacinths); Miss Elizabeth Harrison (white hyacinths); Miss Winifred Baines (tulips); and Mrs. I. Mort and Mrs. Lewis (crocus).

Mrs. T. Preston, of Colton, and Mrs. F. Boucher, of Colwich, were among the winners in a raffle for county funds.

COLTON

PRODUCE GUILD. — At ... February meeting of Colton ... Produce Guild held in the R... Room, the chairman, Mr. T. P... presided and welcomed Mr ... Mrs. Ernest Broughtos, Mr. B... ton, who now lives at Walt... the Hill, Stafford, was headm... of Colton Church of England Sc... for 36 years, till he retired in ... After the reading and confirm... the minutes of the previous mee... Mr. Broughton, having exte... Horticultural knowledge, gave ... talk on the grafting of fruit ... which he declared to be the ... light of propagation. With the ... of a blackboard he demonstr... several methods of grafting, m... apple and pear trees. Memb... thanks were expressed by Mr. C... Ravenscroft to Mr. Broughton, ... with Mrs. Broughton next ju... the bowls of hyacinths awar... first and second places to ... B. M. Ravenscroft, and third to ... D. M. Jones. The winners in ... points system, which is now d... tinued, Mrs. I. Preston and ... Jack Brown, each received a ... bush, Mrs. Broughton making ... presentation. Tea hostesses for ... evening were the Misses Ruth ... Gwendoline Ravenscroft, assist... Mrs. E. Preston and Miss E... Norman. Buiness items incl... arrangements regarding transp... the county bulb show at Wh... village hall. Mr. P. Tabernor... that Colwich Guild would ... pleased if Colton members ... share coach. The secretary, ... Jones, unged more members to ... "Village Life" so as to keep ... booklet at its present price of ... per copy.

Children of Colton Ch... School attending the Ash W... nesday morning service, were ... prised to hear from the Rec... the Rev. A. S. Towlson, that ... would not be going to Col... School next week, as the start ... modernisation on their own sc... was being delayed.

The rector told them that ... scheme, and consequently t... transportation to Colwich ... for lessons was delayed bec... the owner of some land req... for the extensions had not ... signed the contract of sale.

Arrangements had been m... for the children to be given ... lessons and mid-day meals ... premises at Colwich School ... from Tuesday next, and they ... expecting to return to an enla... school at Colton in the aut... All other arrangements for ... modernisation were complete ... contractors had begun to m... equipment on to the site.

The Colton Committee o... Conservative Association h... whist drive in the Reading ... for Party funds. Mr. ... Westhorpe was the M.C. ... prizes were presented by M... Harley, of Abbots Bromley. ... Mrs. L. Wilson, Mrs. Pitts, ... D. Rowe, Mr. J. Shipley, M... M. Ravenscroft, Mrs. F. ... oastle, Mrs. E. M. Sargeant, ... Harley, Mrs. D. Deacon, M... N. Felton, Mrs. W. J. Jones ... Mr. G. Vernon. The raffle ... bottle of wine was won by ... J. Shipley. Prizes and ref... ments were given by comm... members.

Colton. — The annual ... Year party, held a fortn... later than usual, was s... what poorly attended, ... those members who ... present with their guests ... visitors from Etching ... and Slitting Mill W.I.s ha... most enjoyable evening. T... company received a hea... welcome from the Presid... (Mrs. I. Preston) who th... handed over to Mr. W. ... Barham (acting as M.C.). ... Tom Done was at the pi...

IF the delay over plans for modernising Colton Village school has not resolved itself soon, members of the village assembly are to hold a further public meeting to decide what action should be taken.

At their annual Parish Meeting held in the reading room, members of the assembly discussed this delay for some time.

County Councillor J. E. Riley explained the position and Councillor L. Mellor said he was most concerned by it. He had one child attending the school and was concerned over existing conditions. Children should be educated in different conditions from those which prevailed when he attended the school 30 years ago he said.

Mr. M. Pomlett supported him and drew attention to the "disgusting" toilet conditions.

Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft earlier moved successfully that the parish council should again enter for the "Best Kept Village" competition.

Councillor F. Hardcastle outlined plans for the improvement of the Reading Room and asked for support for the Traction Engine Rally which takes place in July.

Councillor Riley reported on the road improvements to be carried out at the dangerous bend near Trent Valley, and Mr. P. J. Everall asked if protection rails could be erected on the kerb of the proposed footpath there.

Councillor Riley agreed to raise the matter with the county authorities.

Councillor Mellor said he was not satisfied with the style of the bus shelter erected in the village last year.

It was explained that an industrial type shelter had been erected instead of the more rural wooden variety which the parish council had had in mind.

Members learned that complaints about the condition of the post office road had led to a county council undertaking to repair potholes.

Mr. M. Williscroft drew attention to the poor condition of footpaths in parts of the village, and Councillor Hardcastle said that a sewerage scheme was scheduled to

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PARISH COUNCIL.—A meeting of Colton parish council was held in the Reading Room. Present were Councillors Luke Mellor, chairman, R. Morrall, Fred Hardcastle and G. F. Upton and the clerk Mrs P. M. Buckley. In matters arising it was stated there was nothing to report regarding the danger spot at the Trent Valley, footpath No. 28 or the bus shelter. Regarding the heating arrangements for the village hall it was announced this was in hand. A long discussion took place regarding the question of the village school. Councillor Hardcastle said Colton school was scheduled as the worst in the Lichfield rural district and it was moved that a further letter be sent to the County Council stressing the concern of the parish council at the present state of affairs, and pressing for action even if it meant a C.P.O. to get the land required. It was stated that a notice had been put up at the pithole at Bank Top, forbidding the depositing of rubbish etc. Regarding the vacancy on the parish lands trust caused by the death of Mrs J. L. Taylor it was agreed to leave this over for the time being. A discussion was held regarding parking of cars in the High Street in front of six newly erected private houses, it was

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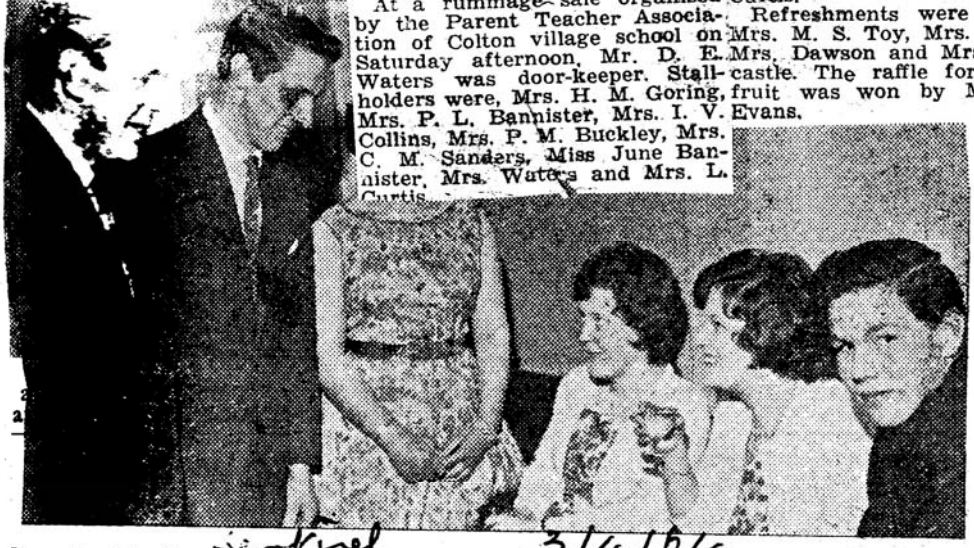
COLTON

PARTY.—A pleasant evening was spent on Shrove Tuesday, when Colton Mothers' Union members, with their families, and other guests, met for the annual party in the Reading Room. Members of Blithfield Mothers' Union joined with Colton members, and Mrs P. B. Best extended a welcome to all. Mr D. E. Waters said Grace, and asked that sick members and those who had died be remembered. Following the meal, a whist drive was held with Mr Bernard Betson as M.C. and winners were Mrs F. Shipley, Mrs L. Betson, Mrs Z. Rowe and Mrs H. M. Felton; and a beetle drive with Miss D. M. Jones as M.C. Winners were Gwendoline Ravenscroft, Marilyn and Melvyn Collins. Miss Jones played the piano for musical chairs which was won by Mrs N. Vernon. Mr J. A. Best gave a film show of the Bellamour barbecue and traction engine rallies, Mothers' Union members at Wharf Cottage, and barn dancing at Hamley Lodge. The show ended with



Lowe-by-Chartley guests at the Stafford Young Farmers' Ball, held in the Borough Hall, Stafford, on Tuesday—John Barker, Trevor Tabernor, Sylvia Hubbard, eJan Mardling, Dorothy Tabernor and Brian Murby.

LAND DELAYS EXTENSION TO COLTON SCHOOL

TIMES 21/3/64

A DEMAND for the County Council to put a compulsory purchase order on land needed for the modernisation of Colton Church School was made by the Parochial Church Council at their annual meeting on Thursday of last week.

The resolution was the culmination of a long discussion, during which it was decided that a letter should be sent expressing great concern at the continued delay. It was mentioned that the children should have moved out of the school in February in readiness for work to commence, taking their lessons until autumn at Colwich School, but negotiations with the owner of a plot of land needed for the extensions appeared to have broken down.

The Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, said the delay was the "major disappointment" of the year. The temptation was to blame the church when, in fact, the blame lay elsewhere. Nevertheless, the continued delay did have unfortunate repercussions all round — "a state of affairs we heartily deplore," he said.

He thought it would not be prudent, even if funds were available, to continue at the present time with the churchyard extension until the land requirements for the school were settled.

OTHER WORK

There were, however, other things which could be done if they had the funds — work in the cemetery which was outlined last year, and church decoration.

He thought a better means should be devised of sharing expenses between "housekeeping" church expenses and capital items and emphasised the freewill offering scheme. He also commended the covenant scheme, which he said had proved so successful in other churches.

"One of the reasons a gift day date has not yet been announced for this year is because it seems to me that the best gift for a church is a regular contribution to the total expenses of the church. Therein the covenant scheme, coupled with the freewill offering scheme, could provide the answer," he said.

The rector told the parishioners that the main achievement of the last year had been the completion of the £2,500 appeal fund which had averaged about £500 a year in church collections, and especially in the freewill offering scheme. Church collections were up by £42 and the fete income up by £7 on last year's figures," said the rector. In spite of the big "freeze", heating and lighting costs were down by £41, which seemed to confirm the wisdom of installing the electric heaters.

He said the number of communicants over the year, 1,128, remained about the same as in the previous year.

Miss D. A. Cooper (secretary) reported that there were now 245 names on the electoral roll. There was no election for membership of the Parochial Church Council because only five names were submitted for the eight seats — Mrs. G. F. Finnemore, Mrs. V. M. Towlson, Miss D. A. Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. A. I. D Collins.

The accounts for the appeal fund and the church expenses were adopted.

Earlier at the annual Vestry meeting, the rector paid tribute to the late Mrs. J. L. Taylor, deputy people's warden. He thanked all the church officers and said it was good to know that for 1,000 years and more the church life had been going on at Colton.

He nominated Mr. J. Tittensor as his warden, with Mr. D. E. Waters as deputy warden.

Mr. M. Williscroft, was re-elected people's warden, and the office of deputy people's warden was left vacant for the time being.

Messrs. B. Bettson, C. M. Boycott, A. N. Felton and W. A. Norman, together with the officers were appointed sidesmen, with the assistance of Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, Mrs. H. A. Williscroft, Miss E. Rotchell and the Mothers' Union enrolling member (still to be appointed) as lady collectors.

COLTON W.I. RE-ELECT PRESIDENT

Presiding at the annual meeting of Colton Women's Institute, held in the Reading Room, the president, Mrs. P. Preston, welcomed as a member a new resident in Colton, Mrs. M. Taylor.

The retiring committee and members for their support, the president said she was sorry Mrs. P. V. Barker, their secretary, had decided not to stand for committee this year and thanked her for her work during her six years as secretary.

Mrs. Barker gave a report of the year's activities for which she was thanked by Mrs. B. Barham, and the treasurer, Mrs. I. R. Brown, read the accounts. She was thanked by Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft.

Mrs. D. M. Jones was elected a delegate to the spring council meeting to be held with Mrs. L. Jackson as substitute, and Mrs. Ravenscroft agreed to attend as delegate to the National A.G.M. in London on June 2 and 3.

The competition for a pot of daffodils was won by Mrs. Dora Dean and Mrs. M. L. Waters.

The competition prize went to Mrs. D. M. Jones. Mrs. Buckley took charge of the table.

During the tea time a game of musical parcels, organised by Mrs. Jones, was won by Mrs. Brown. Miss [illegible] presented a programme of [illegible] by singing. Tea hostesses were Mrs. H. M. Felton, Mrs. Jones and Miss Jones.

The following were elected:— President, Mrs. P. Preston; vice-presidents, Mrs. N. Jones and Miss D. M. Jones; secretary, Mrs. C. M. Sanders; assistant secretary, Mrs. [illegible]; treasurer, Mrs. I. R.

At a rummage sale organised by the Parent Teacher Association of Colton village school on Saturday afternoon, Mr. D. E. Waters was door-keeper. Stall-holders were, Mrs. H. M. Goring, Mrs. P. L. Bannister, Mrs. I. V. Collins, Mrs. P. M. Buckley, Mrs. C. M. Sanders, Miss June Bannister, Mrs. Waters and Mrs. L. Curtis. Refreshments were served by Mrs. M. S. Toy, Mrs. L. Cooper, Mrs. Dawson and Mrs. F. Hardcastle. The raffle for a box of fruit was won by Mr. Rupert Evans.

COLTON FUNERAL

MERCURY

Seldom has Colton St. Mary's Church had such a large congregation as that which assembled for the funeral on Wednesday last week of Mr. Frank Stephen Knight. The body had rested over-night in the church. The Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson officiated and the organist was Mrs. G. E. Finnemore.

Mourners were:- Mrs. Enid Knight (widow); Mr. F. S. Knight (father); Mr. and Mrs. R. Knight (brother and sister-in-law): Mr. and Mrs. Donald Evans (sister and brother-in-law); Mr. and Mrs. J. Simpson (sister and brother-in-law); Mr. A. J. Smith (father-in-law); Graham Knight (nephew); Mrs. D. Knight, Messrs. A. A., F., and N. Shilton, Mr. and Mrs. P. and Miss M. Loverock, Mr. and Mrs. C. Knight, Miss M. Neighbour, Mr. and Mrs. J. Neighbour, Mr. and Mrs. A. Knight, Messrs. P.

FUNERAL. — There was a large congregation at St Mary's Church Colton for the funeral of Mr Frank Stephen Knight. The rector, the Rev A. S. Towlson, officiated and the organist was Mrs G. E. Finnemore. Mourners Mrs Enid Knight, widow; Mr F. S. Knight, father, Mr and Mrs R. Knight, brother and sister in law, Mr and Mrs Donald Evans, sister and brother in law, Mr and Mrs J. Simpson, sister and brother in law, Mr A. J. Smith, father in law, Graham Knight, nephew, Mrs D. Knight, Messrs A. A. F. and N. Shilton, Mr and Mrs P. and Miss M. Loverock, Mr and Mrs C. Knight, Miss M. Neighbour, Mr and Mrs J. Neighbour, Mr and Mrs A. Knight, Messrs P. and C. Knight Mr Selby Lycett and Miss Angela Collins. Also present were: Mr and Mrs Stan Mitchell, Mr P. Leader, rep. W. S. Bagshaw and Sons, Mr and Mrs W. Meakin, Mr and Mrs W. G. Carrington, also rep. Mr and Mrs T. G. Carrington, Mr and Mrs Gordon Shipley, also rep. Mr S. J. Bloore, Mr and Mrs H. Whittaker, Mrs M. Kent, Mr and Mrs E. Cooper, Mr and Mrs A. N. Vernon, Mr and Mrs G. Vernon, Mr and Mrs J. Charles, Mr George Mellor, also rep. Mr E. T. Bettson, Mr and Mrs M. Morrissey, Mr and Mrs J. W. Grimley, Mr and Mrs R. Grimley, Mr and Mrs F. Pratt, Mrs J. Sargeant, Mr J. Shipley, Mr Bernard Bettson, also rep. Mrs Bettson, Mr and Mrs F. H. Bannister, Mr and Mrs G. Hampson, Mrs W. J. Jones, also rep. Mr Jones, Mr and Mrs G. A. Chilton, Mr and Mrs P. W. Westhorpe, Mrs J. M. Deacon, Mr and Mrs J. H. Toy, Miss E. Rotchell, Mr W. J. Parr, Mr and Mrs G. E. D. and Mrs E. Atkin, Mr M. Williscroft, Mr and Mrs H. Froggatt, Mr J. Hollins, Mr John Shipley, Mrs W. Hampson, Mrs B. Brandrick, Mr Fred Norman, Mr and Mrs J. A. Best, Mr Duncan Moore, Mr J. Edwards, Lloyds Bank Mr Jeff Rowe, Mr G. H. Brown, Mr R. H. Bloor, Mr John Sproston Messrs P. K. and D. Cottrell, Mrs J. Hunt, rep Hunt's Mill, Mr. and Mrs W. Brinkler, Mr Sidney Woodward, Mr A. V. Branson, rep. Silcocks, Mr and Mrs A. I. D. Collins, Mrs G. M. Upton, Mrs B. M. Ravenscroft, Mrs J. Martin, Mrs A. Rowe, Mrs G. Deacon and Mrs G. Amyes and the Misses B. and W. Norman. Bearers were Messrs Rupert Evans, Luke Mellor, Vincent Charles and Maurice Deacon. Some donations to the church were given instead of floral tributes. Floral tributes: To my darling husband; Nigel and Delia; Dad and Simpie; A loyal and true son in law; auntie Nellie; Sheila and John, uncle Percy and auntie Mary; Veronica and Rosemary; Ron and Kath; Don and Audrey; Ian, Judy and Wendy; Alan and Linda; Angela and Selby; aunt Marjorie; aunt Nell; A. Mardell; aunt Margaret and family; uncle Bill and family; Harold and Nola; Margaret and Jim; Tony and Jo Chilton; Johnnie and Peter; Madeline Phillips; F. W. and D. M. Snow; Richard and Lillian, the Spond; Rupert; auntie Dorothy, Colin and Geoffrey; Graham and Richard; Frank,, Phyl and Jean; Mr and Mrs J .W. Hooley; uncle Bill and auntie Edith; Jack and Connie; the members Rugeley Agricultural Trading Group; Bob, Frieda, Dianne, Trudy and Christopher; Mr and Mrs Lamb, Admason; Win and George Armett; George, Greta, Margery and Luke Mellor; all at Moore's, Rugeley; A. Parker and Sons Ltd.; Harold and Mary Bloor; Directors and Staff, Rugeley Motors; Joan, Stuart, Pip and the children; all at Yeatsall; Wendy and Barbara Norman; Ursula and Maurice; Rosa and Edgar Armett; Frank and Eva; Mr and Mrs J. Martin and Mr and Mrs A. Rowe; Peter, Joan, Paul, Joan and Tom; Brenda, Michael and children Mr and Mrs R. H. Norman, Judith and Brenda; Alice, Theo, Deborah, Mark, Nicholas and Elenor; Mr and Mrs Molineaux and family; Mick & Gwen: W. S. Bagshaw and Sons; Ann and John Giles and Mrs Giles; John, Margaret, Susan and Michael; Mr and Mrs S. Goodwin; Winifred Marjorie and Kathleen; Bill and Bunty; Mr and Mrs G. Hampson and family; Mr and Mrs J. Phillips and family; Joyce, Noel and Hilary; Mr and Mrs Meakin; Mr and Mrs Hunt: Bill and May Oldham; auntie

...Church ...estry P.C.C. meeting

29/3/64

At the annual Easter Vestry meeting for St. Mary's, Colton held in the Village School, the Rector, Rev. A. S. Towlson, paid tribute to the late Mrs. J. L. Taylor who had been deputy People's Warden.

Thanking all church officers, the Rector said it was good to know that for a thousand years and more church life in Colton had gone on. He re-elected Mr. Joseph Tittensor as his Warden, and Mr. D. E. Waters deputy. Mr. Maurice Williscroft, retiring Warden, accepted nomination as People's Warden and was duly re-elected. Sidesmen, Messrs. Bernard Bettson, C. M. Boycott, A. N. Felton and W. A. Norman and the officers; lady collectors, Mrs. H. A. Williscroft, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, Miss Ellen Rotchell and the Mothers' Union Enrolling Member when one is appointed.

At the annual Parochial meeting which followed, the Secretary, Miss D. A. Cooper, said there were 245 names on the electoral roll. There was no election for the Church Council there being only five names for eight places, namely, Mrs. G. E. Finnemore, Mrs. V. M. Towlson, Miss D. A. Cooper, and Mr. and Mrs. A. I. D. Collins, these with the Wardens, deputy Wardens, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, Diocesan Conference representative, and the Ruridecanal representatives, who are Mr. Norman and Mr. Waters.

The Rector then gave his report which said: "The main achievement of the past year has been the completition of the £2,500 appeal fund. If the present rate of progress is to be maintained, as is much to be desired, some other means of financing capital is necessary. The appeal fund brought in an average of £500 per year."

It was encouraging to note a significant though small increase in church collections and especially the Free Will Offering scheme. Church collections were up by £42 and Fete income by £7 on last year's.

Communicants over the year were 1,128, about the same as last year.

"Major disappointment of the year was the continued delay in the modernisation of the school. The temptation is to blame the church when in point of fact blame is elsewhere. Nevertheless continued delay does indeed have unfortunate repercussions all round. A state of affairs we heartily deplore."

A lengthy discussion regarding the school took place, Mr. Hardcastle proposing that a letter go to the County Council, stressing the great concern of the meeting, regarding the continued delay in the modernisation and demanding that a C.P.O. be put into operation to obtain the land required.

This was agreed by a majority vote.

COLTON

19/3/64

VESTRY MEETING.—The annual Easter vestry meeting for the parish of St Mary's, Colton was held in the village school. Opening the meeting, the Rector, the Rev A. S. Towlson, expressed regret that there was such a poor attendance. He went on to pay tribute to the late Mrs. J. L. Taylor, who had been deputy people's warden. Thanking all church officers, the Rector said it was good to know that for a thousand years and more Church life in Colton had gone on. He re-elected Mr Joseph Tittensor as his warden for the coming year and Mr D. E. Waters, deputy. Mr Maurice Williscroft retiring warden, accepted nomination as people's warden. The question of a deputy people's warden was left over for the time being. Sidesmen, Messrs Bernard Bettson; C. M. Boycott, A. N. Felton and W. A. Norman and the officers. Lady collectors Mrs H. A. Williscroft, Mrs B. M. Ravenscroft, Miss Ellen Rotchell and the Mothers Union enrolling member when one is appointed. The annual parochial meeting followed. The secretary, Miss D. A. Cooper said there were 245 names on the electoral roll There was no election for the church council there being only five names for eight places. They are Mrs G. E. Finnemore, Mrs V. M. Towlson, Miss D. A. Cooper and Mr and Mrs A. I. D. Collins. These with the wardens, deputy wardens, Mrs B. M. Ravenscroft, diocesan conference representative and the ruridecanal representatives who are Mr Norman and Mr Waters. The accounts of the appeal fund and the church expenses account were presented and adopted. The rector then gave his report. The main achievement of the past year had been the completion of the £2,500 appeal fund. If the present rate of progress was to be maintained some other means of financing capital is necessary. The appeal fund had brought in an average of £500 per year. It was encouraging to note a significant though small increase in church collections and especially the free will offering scheme. Church collections were up by £42 and fete income up by £7 on last year's. In spite of the "big freeze" heating and lighting costs were down by £41. Communicants over the year were 1,128 about the same as last year. Major disappointment of the year was the continued delay in the modernisation of the school. It would not be prudent at the present time, even if funds were available to continue with the churchyard extention, until the question of land requirements for the school is settled. There were, however, other things which could be done if they had the funds. Work in the cemetery, outlined last year and church sion regarding the school took place. sion regarding th eschool took place Mr Hardcastle proposed that a letter go to the County Council, stressing the great concern of the meeting regarding the continued delay in the modernisation of the school and demanding that a C.P.O. be put into operation to obtain the land required. This was agreed by a majority vote.

Knight

TIMES 4/3/64

A well-known member of the farming community, Mr. Frank Stephen Knight, of Crabtree Farm, Colton, died in Birmingham General Infirmary on Saturday.

Aged 42, Mr. Knight was the elder son of Mr. Frank Sharratt Knight and the late Mrs. Beatrice Knight who moved to Crabtree Farm from the Abbots Bromley district 27 years ago. On the retirement of his parents, Mr. Knight took over the farm and married Miss Enid Smith, of Admaston. They lived for a time in Wolseley Road, Rugeley.

Mr. Knight leaves a wife and two children, Nigel and Delia.

The funeral service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. A. S. Towlson, at St. Mary's Church, Colton, on Wednesday afternoon. The organist was Mrs. G. E. Finnemore. There were more than 80 floral tributes and some donations to the church.

The principal mourners were:—Mrs. Enid Knight (wife); Mr. F. S. Knight (father); Mr. and Mrs. R. Knight (brother and sister-in-law); Mr. and Mrs. Donald Evans, Mr. and Mrs. J. Simpson (sisters and brothers-in-law); Mr. A. J. Smith (father-in-law); Mr. Graham Knight (nephew); Mr. N. Shilton, Messrs. A. A. and F. Shilton, Mr. and Mrs. J. Neighbour, Mr. and Mrs. C. Knight, Mr. and Mrs. A. Knight, Mr. P. Knight, Mr. C. Knight, Mr. Selby Lycett, Miss Angela Collins (cousins); Miss M. Neighbour (aunt-in-law).

SENTINEL

Seldom has there been such a large congregation at Colton St. Mary's Church as that which assembled for the funeral on Wednesday last week of Mr. Frank Stephen Knight, of Colton whose body had rested overnight in the church.

The Rector (the Rev. A. S. Towlson) conducted the funeral service and the organist was Mrs. G. E. Finnemore.

Mourners were: Mrs. Enid Knight (widow), Mr. F. S. Knight (father), Mr. and Mrs. R. Knight (brother and sister-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. Donald Evans, Mr. and Mrs. J. Simpson (brothers-in-law and sisters), Mr. A. J. Smith (father-in-law), Graham Knight (nephew), Mrs. D. Knight, Messrs. A. A., F. and N. Shilton, Mr. and Mrs. P. and Miss M. Loverock, Mr. and Mrs. C. Knight, Miss M. Neighbour, Mr. and Mrs. J. Neighbour, Mr. and Mrs. A. Knight, Messrs. P. and C. Knight, Mr. Selby Lycett and Miss Angela Collins.

Among others present were Mr. and Mrs. Stan Mitchell, Mr. P. Leader (representing W. S. Bagshaw and Sons), Mr. and Mrs. W. Meakin, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Carrington (also representing Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Carrington), Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Shipley (also representing Mr. S. J. Blore), Mr. and Mrs. H. Whittaker, Mrs. M. Kent, Mr. and Mrs. E. Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Vernon, Mr. and Mrs. G. Vernon, Mr. and Mrs. J. Charles, Mr. George Mellor (also representing Mr. E. T. Bettson), Mr. and Mrs. M. Morrissey, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Grimley, Mr. and Mrs. R. Grimley, Mr. and Mrs. F. Pratt, Mrs. J. Sargeant, Mr. J. Shipley, Mr. Bernard Bettson (also representing Mrs. Bettson), Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Bannister, Mr. and Mrs. G. Hampson, Mrs. W. J. Jones (also representing Mr. Jones), Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Chilton, Mr. and Mrs. P. W. Westhorpe, Mrs. J. M. Deacon, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Toy, Miss E. Rotchell, Mr. W. J. Parr, Mr. and Mrs. G. E. D. and Mrs. E. Atkin, Mr. M. Williscroft, Mr. and Mrs. H. Froggatt, Mr. J. Hollins, Mr. John Shipley, Mrs. W. Hampson, Mrs. B. Brandrick, Mr. Fred Norman, Mr. and Mrs. A. Best, Mr. Duncan Moore, Mr. J. Edwards (Lloyds Bank), Mr. Jeff Rowe, Mr. G. H. Brown, Mr. R. H. Bloor, Mr. John Sproston, Messrs. P. K. and D. Cottrell, Mrs. J. Hunt (representing Hunt's

...in COLTON

13/

PRODUCE GUILD.—Colton ...lage Produce Guild's March ...ing was their annual general ...ing. The chairman, Mr. T. P... presiding remarked on the ... good attendance and he went ... extend warm thanks to the ... tary, Miss D. M. Jones, the ... urer, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft ... rest of the committee and men... of the guild as a whole for ... support during the year. The ...utes of the last meeting were ... and confirmed. The secretary's ...port showed a successful and ...ied year, visits from other g... being highlights. The adoption ... this report was moved by Mr ... Toy, seconded by Mr W. C. P... ton. The treasurer reported ... subject to audit, there would b... balance of around £11. The a... for something in the way o... money raising effort was voiced ...

Mr Toy. The adoption of this re... was moved by Mrs Toy and seco... ed by Mrs T. Preston. The chairm... outlined coming county activi... and also suggestions for guild... ings. He reminded members ... yearly subscriptions were now ... Mr D. E. Waters acted as teller ... the election of a new commit... and the following were elected ... L. Devall, Mr A. N. Felton, Mes... D. W. and M. Garwood, Mrs ... Jackson, Miss D. M. Jones, Mr ... Preston, Mrs B. M. and Miss R... Ravenscroft. Mr Preston was ... elected chairman, he thanked me... bers for continued confidence ... him. Former guild members Mr a... Mrs S. J. Timmins brought along ... Rural Community Council film ... en by Mr Timmins, during the ... kept village competition. Th... were expressed to Mr Timmins ... Mr Toy. A competition for a ... of daffodils was won by Mrs T... Refreshments were provided ... served by Mrs H. Baker and ... and Mrs. P. Tabernor.

SALE. — A successful rumm... sale, organised by the parent tea... association of the village school ... held in the village hall on Saturd... Mr D. E. Waters was door keep... Stallholders: Mrs H. M. Goring, ... P. L. Bannister, Mrs I. V. Col... Mrs P. M. Buckley, Mrs C. ... Sanders, Miss June Bannister, ... Waters and Mrs L. Curtis. Refres... ments were served by Mrs M. ... Toy, Mrs L. Cooper, Mrs Dav... and Mrs F. Hardcastle. A box ... fruit was won by Mr Rus... Evans.

Mercury COLTON 27/3/64

Colton W.I. held their A.G... in the Reading Room where ... President, Mrs. I. Preston ... comed as a visitor, Mrs. ... Taylor, a new resident in Colt... Letters were read from Mrs. ... Bettson, and Mrs. J. E. Norm... expressing thanks for flow... and "get well" cards. Dele... elected for the Spring cou... meeting at Stafford is Miss ... M. Jones with Mrs. L. Jack... as visitor. Mrs. B. M. Rave... croft agreed to be delegate ... the National A.G.M. in Lon... in June. The President said h... thankful she was for the wond... ful help and support of the C... mittee and the members. ... said how sorry they were t... the hon. Secretary, Mrs. P. ... Buckley could not stand for ... committee this year.

Mrs. Buckley then gave a ... port of the year's activities. ... was thanked by Mrs. B. Bart... The hon. Treasurer (Mrs. L. ... Brown) gave the financial re... (audited by Mr. C. S. Jo... which was satisfactory. ... Brown was thanked by ... Ravenscroft.

Mrs. Ivy Preston was ... elected President with Mrs. ... Jones and Miss D. M. Jones ... Vice-Presidents. The new ... retary is Mrs. C. M. San... with Mrs. L. Jackson assist... Mrs. Brown again takes office ... Treasurer, with Mrs. M. G. B... nett assistant; Press repres... tive, Mrs. Ravenscroft; "H... and Country", Miss Ellen ... chell.

Tea hostesses were, Mrs. H. ... Felton, Mrs. Jackson and ...

Parkside Group W.I.s

Mercury 27/3/64

The Spring meeting of the Parkside Group was held at Hixon, and was much enjoyed by members representative of Abbots Bromley, Blithfield, Colton, Colwich, Hixon and Stowe-by-Chartley. Mrs. Shaw, the Hixon President, welcomed everyone. Mrs. E. Bowen, of Colwich, the acting convener, asked members to stand in a silent tribute to their last Convener, the late Mrs. Julia L. Taylor, of Colton.

Mrs. Pettifer, the County Representative, gave a lucid report of coming events.

Lady Dyer (past National Chairman) gave a delightful talk on "Life begins at forty." She was thanked by Mrs. Roberts, of Hixon.

The competitions, judged by Lady Dyer and Mrs. Pettifer were for a paper Easter Hat

Colton Parish Council

Mercury 20/3/64

At a meeting of Colton Parish Council held in the Reading Room, it was reported that heating arrangements for the Village Hall were in hand.

A long discussion took place about the Village School, which Cllr. F. Hardcastle said was scheduled as "the worst in the Lichfield Rural District." It was agreed a further letter be sent to the County Council stressing the concern of the Parish Council at the present state of affairs, and pressing for action even if it meant a C.P.O. to get the land required.

It was stated that a notice had been put up at the pithole at Bank Top, forbidding the deposit of rubbish, etc.

A discussion took place about the parking of cars in the High Street in front of six newly erected private houses. It was stated these were in the road all night and it was agreed the mat-

...ing of Colton
...e Guild, held
on Th... ...st week, was
the ann... ...eting, and Mr.
T. Preston (chairman) presided.
He thanked the secretary (Miss
D. M. Jones), the treasurer
(Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft), committee and members for their
loyal support during the year.

The secretary's report was adopted on the proposition of Mr. J.
H. Toy, the treasurer's report
showed a balance of about £11.

The need for a money-raising
effort was mentioned by Mr. Toy,
and the report was adopted on the
motion of Mrs. Toy, seconded by
Mrs. T. Preston.

The chairman outlined pending
county events and suggestions for
guild outings.

The following were elected on
the committee: Messrs. L. Devall,
A. N. Felton, D. W. and M. Garwood, T. Preston, Mrs. L. Jackson,
Miss D. M. Jones, Mrs. B. M.
Ravenscroft and Miss R. Ravenscroft. Mr. Preston was re-elected
chairman.

Former guild members, Mr. and
Mrs. S. J. Timmins, showed the
Rural Community Council film on
the Best Kept Village Competition,
and they were thanked by Mr. Toy.

The competition for a pot of
daffodils was won by Mrs. Toy.

Refreshments were provided and
served by Mrs. H. Baker and Mr.
and Mrs. P. Tabenor.

Matters concerning the annual
show were discussed, and seed
potatoes were available from Mr.
W. C. Preston for the class for
the heaviest yield from one
pota...

Guild 13/3/64

At Colton Village Produce Guild annual meeting, the Chairman, Mr. T. Preston, thanked the hon. secretary, Miss D. M. Jones, the hon. treasurer, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, the committee and members of the Guild for loyal support during the past year.

Following was the secretary's annual report which was most comprehensive and showed a successful and varied year, visits from other guilds being highlights, the treasurer reported on the financial workings of the year, which showed a balance of around £11. The need for something in the way of a money raising effort was voiced by Mr. J. H. Toy.

The Chairman outlined coming county activities and also suggestions for guild outings.

Mr. D. E. Waters acted as teller in the election of the new committee and the following were elected:- Mr. L. Devall, Mr. A. N. Felton, Messrs. D. W. and M. Garwood, Mrs. L. Jackson, Miss D. M. Jones, Mr. T. Preston, Mrs. B. M. and Miss Ruth Ravenscroft. Mr. Preston was re-elected Chairman.

Former guild members, Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Timmins brought along the Rural Community Council film taken by Mr. Timmins, during the Best Kept Village competition of Staffordshire villages and surrounding countryside giving a good commentary. Thanks were expressed to Mr. Timmins by Mr. Toy. The competition for a pot of daffodils was won by Mrs. Toy.

Refreshments were provided and served by Mrs. H. Baker and Mr. and Mrs. P. Tabernor.

Colton Parish Council

It was agreed at the Colton Parish Council meeting held in the reading room last week that the County Council be requested to send a representative to a public meeting on April 23 regarding the school.

The County Council had forwarded a letter in which they said they were most anxious to continue work on the school, but that they had been unable to reach agreement with the landowner. The Parish Council

Parkside Group

The spring meeting of the Parkside Group was held at Hixon and was much enjoyed by members representative of Abbots Bromley, Blithfield, Colton, Colwich, Hixon and Stowe-by-Chartley.

Mrs. Shaw (the Hixon President) presided and Mrs. B. Bowen, of Colwich, the acting Convener, asked members to stand in silent tribute to their former Convener, the late Mrs. Julia L. Taylor, of Colton. Mrs. Pettifer was the County representative and reported on coming events.

Lady Dyer (past National Chairman) gave a delightful and humorous talk on "Life begins at forty." She was thanked by Mrs. Roberts, of Hixon.

In the social time there was a highly-amusing play-reading by members of Hixon, followed by community singing of old Irish songs with Mrs. Shaw at the piano. The competitions, judged by Lady Dyer and Mrs. Pettifer, were for a paper Easter hat (first prizewinner, Mrs. Bowen), and six shortbread fingers (first prizewinner, Mrs S. Jenkins).

First prize in the raffle went to Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, of Colton.

Excellent home-made refreshments were served by the hostess Institute members.

Colton Village Produce Guild's March meeting was also the annual meeting. The Chairman (Mr. T. Preston) presided and remarked on the very good attendance.

The annual report of the Secretary (Miss D. M. Jones) showed a successful and varied year. The Treasurer (Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft) reported that, subject to audit, there would be a balance of around £11.

Elected to the Committee were: Mr. L. Devall, Mr. A. N. Felton, Messrs. D. W. and M. Garwood, Mrs. L. Jackson, Miss D. M. Jones, Mr. T. Preston, Mrs. B. M. and Miss Ruth Ravenscroft. Mr. Preston was re-elected as Chairman.

Former Guild members, Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Timmins, brought along the Rural Community Council film, taken by Mr. Timmins during the Best-kept Village Competition of Staffordshire villages and surrounding countryside and gave a commentary. Thanks were expressed to Mr. Timmins by Mr. J. H. Toy.

The competition for a pot of daffodils was won by Mrs. Toy.

Refreshments were provided and served by Mrs. H. Baker and Mr. and Mrs. P. Tabernor.

Colton.—The annual meeting was held in the Reading Room. The President (Mrs. I. Preston) presided and welcomed a visitor, Mrs. M. Taylor, a new local resident. The delegate elected to the spring Council meeting at Stafford is Miss D. M. Jones, with Mrs. L. Jackson as visitor. Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft agreed to be delegate (representing Colton and Blithfield) to the national A.G.M. in the Albert Hall, London, on June 2nd and 3rd. Regret was expressed that Mrs. P. M. Buckley had resigned as Hon. Secretary — an office she has held for six years. No election was necessary for the Committee as only 10 names had been left on the list. Mrs. Ivy Preston was again elected as President, with Mrs. N. Jones and Miss D. M. Jones as Vice-Presidents. The new Secretary is Mrs. C. M. Sanders, with Mrs. L. Jackson as assistant. Mrs. I. R. Brown again takes office as Treasurer, with Mrs. M. G. Bennett as assistant. The Press representative is Mrs. Ravenscroft and the "Home and County" secretary is Miss Ellen Rotchell. Mrs. E. M. Sargeant is again on the Committee after a year or two of rest. Tea hostesses were Mrs. H. M. Felton, Mrs. Jackson and Miss Jones. The competition for a pot of daffodils was won by Mrs. Dora Deacon and Mrs. M. L. Waters. The mystery prize went to Mrs. D. M. Atkin, and Mrs. Buckley took charge of the stall. In the social time the musical parcel (organised by Mrs. Jones) was won by Mrs. Brown. Community singing organised by Miss Jones was much enjoyed.

COLTON ENTRY INTO VILLAGE COMPETITION

On the recommendation of the annual parish assembly, Colton parish councillors decided, at their meeting in the Reading Room last week, to enter Staffordshire's best-kept village competition. As one step to improve Colton's chances, they are to press for another litter basket.

The chairman, Councillor L. Mellor, said he was considering giving another cup for the best-kept garden competition, which would be competed for within the area judged in the best-kept village competition. Further details of the competition are to be discussed at a later meeting.

Members agreed that a letter should be sent to the County Council Roads and Bridges Department drawing attention to a broken drain in High Street.

Councillor Mellor is to fill a vacancy on the Parish Lands Trust.

COLTON

Colton.—Presiding at the April meeting, held in the Reading Room, the President (Mrs. I. Preston) welcomed Mrs. M. Taylor (who attended the last meeting as a visitor) as a new member. Mrs. N. Jones (who went as deputy for Miss D. M. Jones) reported on the spring Council meeting. The guest speaker, Mrs. G. D. Spiller, of Armitage, gave an interesting talk on her work with a trade magazine. Mrs. M. L. Waters voiced the

...Colton Women's Institute held ... meeting in the Reading Room. The president, Mrs Preston, in the chair, welcomed a visitor, Mrs M. Taylor, a new resident in Colton. Minutes of February meeting were read confirmed and letters were read from Mrs E. Bettson and Mrs J. E. N... man, expressing thanks for flowers and get well cards. The delegate elected for the Spring council meeting at Stafford is Miss D. M. Jones with Mrs L. Jackson as visitor. Mrs B. M. Ravenscroft agreed to be delegate to the National A.G.M. representing Colton and Blithfield in London in June. The president said how thankful she was for the help and support of the committee and the members. She said how sorry every one must be at the decision of the secretary Mrs P. M. Buckley, not to stand for the committee this year. Members thanks were due to her for all the work she had done during the six years that she has held the office. Mrs Buckley gave a report of the year's activities. She was thanked by Mrs B. Barham. The treasurer Mrs I. R. Brown gave the financial report, audited by Mr C. S. Jones. This showed a satisfactory state of affairs. Mrs Brown was thanked by Mrs Ravenscroft. Mr Maurice Williscroft acted as teller. No election was necessary for committee as only ten names had been left on the list. Mrs Ivy Preston was again elected president with Mrs N. Jones and Miss D. M. Jones as vice presidents. The new secretary is Mrs C. M. Sanders, with Mrs L. Jackson as assistant. Mrs Brown again takes office as treasurer, with Mrs M. G. Bennett assistant. The Press representative is Mrs Ravenscroft. Home and Country Miss Ellen Rotchell, also Mrs E. M. Sargeant is again on the committee. Tea hostesses were Mrs H. M. Felton, Mrs Jackson and Miss Jones. The competition for pot of daffodils was won by Mrs Dora Deacon with a pot of 'Texas' and Mrs M. L. Waters with a pot of Carlton. The mystery prize went to Mrs D. M. Atkin and Mrs Buckley took charge of the stall. A musical parcel, organised by Mrs Jones was won by Mrs Brown and community singing organised by Miss Jones ended the meeting.

Presiding at the April meeting of Colton Women's Institute, held in the Reading Room, Mrs. I. Preston (president) welcomed Mrs. M. Taylor, a new member.

Mrs. N. Jones gave a report of the Spring council meeting which she attended as deputy for Miss D. M. Jones.

The guest-speaker was Mrs. G. D. Spiller, wife of rector of Armitage, who gave a talk on her work with a trade magazine, and she was thanked by Mrs. M. L. Waters.

The competition for a small arrangement of flowers was won by Mrs. B. Barham, and the mystery prize went to Mrs. C. M. Sanders.

Tea hostesses were Mrs. Preston, Miss E. Rotchell and Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft.

The Colton committee of the Lichfield and Tamworth Conservative Association arranged a whist drive in the Reading Room for party funds, prizes and refreshments being given by committee members.

The M.C. was Mr. P. W. Westhorpe, and the prizes were presented by Mrs. D. Harley, of Abbots Bromley, to the following: Mrs. L. Wilson, Mrs. Pitts, Miss D. Rowe, Mr. J. Shipley, Mrs. B. M. Ravenscroft, Mrs. F. Hardcastle, Mrs. E. M. Sargeant, Mrs. Harley, Mrs. D. Deacon, Mr. A. N. Felton, Mrs. W. J. Jones and Mr. G. Vernon.

COLTON

Presiding at the April meeting of Colton W.I. held in the Reading Room, the President, Mrs. I. Preston, welcomed Mrs. B. Bettson back following her recent operation, and Mrs. M. Taylor as a new member. A letter was read from Mrs. M. G. Bennett, thanking members for flowers and "get well" card. Mrs. N. Jones (who went as deputy for Miss D. M. Jones) gave a good report of the Spring Council meeting; she was thanked by Mrs. M. S. Toy.

The guest speaker was Mrs. G. D. Spiller of Armitage who gave an interesting talk on her

At the annual meeting of the Colton branch of the Lichfield Conservative Association held last week at Colton Lodge, Mr. J. C. Price was re-elected Chairman; Mr. Ian W. Bigham, Vice-Chairman and Mr. Fred Hardcastle, Treasurer. As Mrs. Big-

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